BCM

A Belgian Japanese- and pop Culture Magazine
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Interviews

G.L.A.M.S
HOTEI

Fashion & features

Travel Japan: Aomori
colourful fashion

Between Europe and Japan

HOTEI

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#filmisnotdead - Analog cameras used in this edition: Fujifilm Instax mini 90 NEO CLASSIC, Fujifilm Instax square SQ10
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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we can and will not be held responsible, nor accountable for them. It is also worth noting that this is a volunteer run publication.

INTRODUCTION

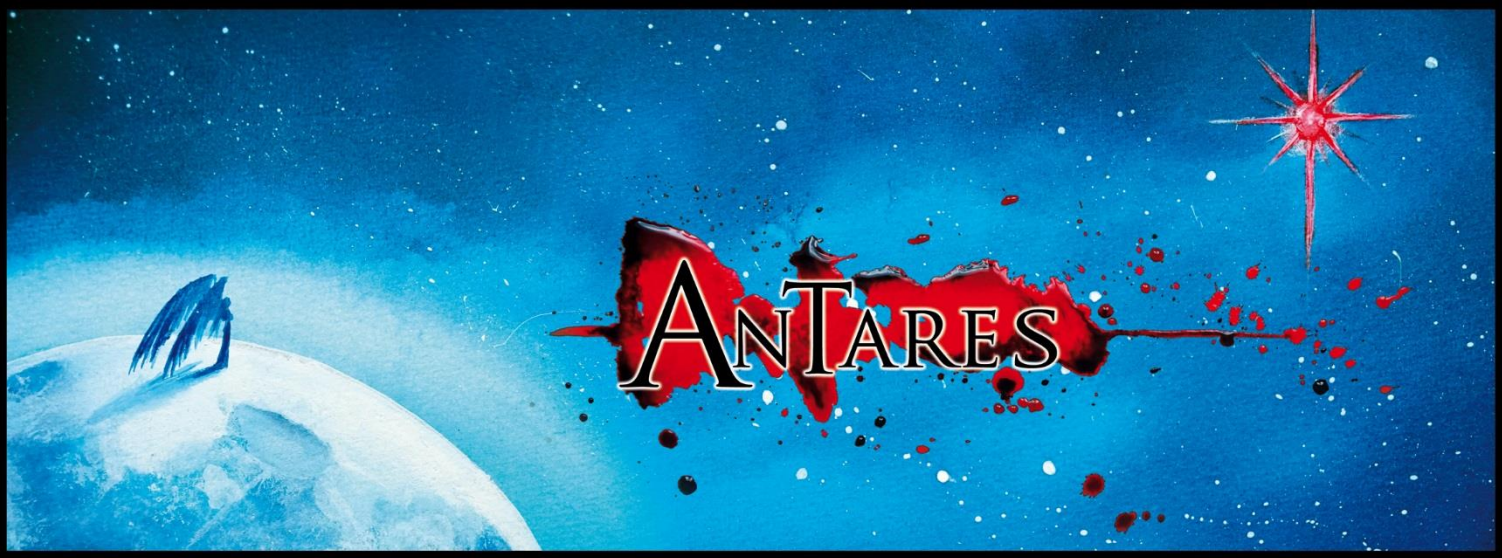
Welcome to our first edition of 2019! Due to circumstances, this year BCM will be a quarterly magazine, but rest assured, we'll continue to bring you the content you're used to getting from us!
Birdie and Claire are back with make-up and SF tutorials, focussing on Valentine's Day.
Helcanen has another travel story for you all, talking about food, and continuing her travel through Japan In another instalment of her travel photography feature.

As far as fashion goes, we're all about adding splashes of colour this edition!
Music wise we not only caught up to Mikaru when he was touring with G.L.A.M.S, but also to legendary guitarist Tomoyasu HOTEI when he was in Belgium on his European tour.
And yes, you will be able to win a signed cheki by both artists ;).

Check out all of this and more in this edition!
I hope you'll enjoy it, and that you'll have an amazing 2019!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in chief

P.S. we are always looking for more pieces to publish, so if you want to participate in a fashion feature, have an idea for an article, want to join us as a photographer, anything you can think of concerning BCM, drop me a line at hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com. I'm always happy to hear from readers!


AnTares

Sombre Antares, Étoile écarlate, Mon cœur t'appartient.
Helcanen
www.helcanen.be

Valentines Explosion

Hey everyone.
Spring is always the season of love and so love inspired me to make this routine.
It might seem a bit out there, but this make-up look came straight from the heart.
Of course you can always tone it down if you're not comfortable with the full version.
Now I'll be honest, I didn't come up with this look. I've seen vloggers, bloggers and insta guru's (oh my!) come up with all sorts of variations of this idea and I just thought to myself "that would be so much fun to try!".
Like always I encourage you to make it your own and play with the products you have.

By Claire Van Laere
www.instagram.com/clairedanslalune16

Step 1: I've already done my foundation and powdered it down, I used a heavy coverage foundation and added some highlighting cream for a dewy finish. Now we have a blank canvas to work with. Every canvas needs a frame, so I continue with my brows. For this look I make my brows quite dark. I use a gel on the ends and more to the centre I'll use a pencil to get a more natural finish. Don't forget to blend it all in with a spooly, or your eyebrows will look very stern and heavy.

Step 2: now we get to the essence of this look, being the eyes. After I've primed my lids I applied a very pale pink basecoat of eyeshadow and a dusty rose shade to the crease. Next, I blend in a burgundy from the corners to the centre in a V-shape. Make sure to blend this last colour more outward so that we have a larger colour surface to work with later. Then with a flat round brush I'll cut my crease using a bright and glittery eyeshadow. Depending on the shadows you use, you might want to apply another basecoat first, or the pink might not stand out enough. I'm finishing off the basic eyeshadow look with a red liner. If you wanted you can stop right here, or you can join me for the explosive part.

Step 3: now comes the fun part. Take two short round eyeshadow brushes (or just clean one brush in between colours), one for pink and one for concealer. I'm creating dots by simply twisting around the brush, alternating from concealer to eyeshadow. You can play around with colours and dot sizes; the most important part is having fun.

Step 4: to finish everything off I add a mauve blush and highlighter and seal the deal with a more neutral pink lipstick and setting spray.

I really hope you'll wear this look or make your own version. I hope you have a lovely spring season and that you join me again in the next issue.

Products used: *3ina*, The 3 in 1 foundation. *Gerard Cosmetics*, Slay All Day Setting spray in Lavender. *Inglot*, Freedom system blush nr. 55. *M.A.C*, Fluidline Brow Gelcreme and Strobe Cream in Pinklite. *MUA*, Shimmer Highlight in Pink Shimmer. *Peggy Sage*, Body Ink in Red. *Pixi* By Petra, Pat Away Concealing base. *Too Faced*, Better Than Sex Mascara. *Urban Decay*, Naked Cherry Palette. *Yves Rocher*, Mattifying Powder.

Potion Purple Love

Potion Purple Love

Hello lovely readers and Happy New Year! With every new year there's always a new color obsession at *Disney* and to kick off this year it is *Potion Purple*. I love purple (my birthstone is Amethyst), so I was inspired to create this makeup and anatomical heart chest piece for you to try!

If you are so inclined to use any part of this tutorial I would love to see your results, so tag me @BirdBrainFX on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook to show me your colorful creations!

By BirdBrainFX
www.instagram.com/birdbrainfx

Part 1:
Potion Purple Eyes

Step 1: apply a base layer of Mehron Makeup Paradise AQ in Violet onto the eyelid using a damp brush, blending outward with a clean fingertip to act as a primer after it dries.

Step 2: next I used a light purple eyeshadow on my crease and blended the color upward and outward away from my eyelids.

Step 3: after that I used a mid-tone purple eyeshadow on the outer corners of my eyelids carefully blending it together over the light purple to deepen the crease.

Step 4: then using a dark purple eyeshadow I added more depth concentrating the color on the outer edge of the crease and blending it once more.

Step 5: now, cover the eyelid and the outer corner of the lower lid using M.A.C pink pearl iridescent shadow and then using a shimmery white eyeshadow highlight the brow bone.

Step 6: using a shimmery silver eyeshadow highlight the inner corners of the eyelid.

Step 7: next wing out the upper lash line using black liquid liner; the severity of the wing is up to you!

Step 8: for the lips I've applied a matte purple liquid lipstick.

Step 9: to finish the lips I've gone overtop of them with that same M.A.C pink pearl shadow to tie the eyes and lips together; and the face is complete!

Part 2:

Potion Purple Heart

Step 10: prepare a stencil using wax paper and a black sharpie. You can find a design you like online, print it and trace it onto the wax paper easily if you don't want to freehand a stencil. Pro tip: make sure it fits in the desired area first! I'm using a thin layer of deodorant to get the stencil to stick and transfer to my skin.

Step 11: to do this I'm going to lay the wax paper stencil sharpie side down and smooth it out to get a good impression.

Step 12: then I'm going to gently lift it off from the edges and try not to smudge it; revealing my stencil.

Step 13: first using white bodypaint I'm filling in the eyes at the base of the heart. In my opinion its easiest and most efficient to start with light colors and graduate to deeper tones when you're painting something like this since it reduces unintentional color blending and smudging while you work.

Step 14: next using a violet bodypaint I filled in the entire anatomical heart design besides the eye whites.

Step 15: using a light purple eyeshadow on a fluffy brush break up the color around the heart and outline it using this color. You don't have to worry about a primer because the eyeshadow will cling to the excess deodorant around the design.

Step 16: Next using a dark purple eyeshadow add even more depth to the design if you desire.

Step 17: now using a wild orchid (dark purple) bodypaint outline all of the details in the design. You could stop here, but we want this to POP!

Step 18: after that go back in with white bodypaint and a fine detail brush to bring out all of the highlights on the design and re-fill the eye whites correcting any mishaps that may have happened along the way.

Step 19: next let's give those eyes some pretty blue irises (or whatever color you desire) using a teal bodypaint.

Step 20: to finish it off simply outline everything with black bodypaint and give the eyes some pupils! Add some of your favorite purple accessories and you're ready to hit the town!

Products used: *Belladonna's Cosmetics*, Matte Liquid Lipstick in Purple. *e.l.f.*, Liquid Liner in Jet Black. *Juvia's Place*, The Zulu Palette: the dark purple shade. *Karity*, Matte Palette in Alexi and Ego. *M.A.C Cosmetics*, Pink Pearl Iridescent Shadow. *Medusa's Makeup*, Eyeshadow in Blow. *Mehron*, Paradise AQ Bodypaint in Violet, Wild Orchid, Teal, White and Black. *Old Spice*, Pure Sport Deodorant.

Anzu

A confectioner at work

Top: takoyaki being prepared.
Bottom: takoyaki ready for eating

Hearty food options at a yakai

After the last article written, I thought that I should come with a completely different topic. Shrines and temples are amazing to visit, but there is so much more to see in Japan that I want to share with you in these pages.

Writing something about the Japanese food should be something you can appreciate, and it should also be useful. Believe me, food has an important place in a visit to Japan. There are so many great places where you can eat. The options are vast, so let's start with perhaps one of the easiest places to grab food: the "***yatai***", and more precisely the ones you can find during *matsuri* (traditional Japanese festivals).

First things first. A yatai is a small mobile food stall. The Japanese version of a food truck, if you will.
Originally, it was a wooden cart on wheels equipped with kitchen appliances and seating. These versions are still around in very small numbers, which makes them very rare. I have travelled to Japan many times, and often visit matsuri, and still I don't recall ever to have seen one. Your best chance to see one, is likely *Fukuoka*. I heard recently that it's renowned for having many yatai, so if you plan to visit the area, definitely look out for traditional ones during the evening.
Nowadays, they are built with modern materials and consist of a metal structure and colourful banners depicting the food sold at the stall. These are the popular type of yata you'll find during matsuri.

Of course, quality can vary from yatai to yatai, and the type of food, as well as ingredients can differ depending on where you are eating. A dish that you had in Tokyo could taste completely different in say, Kobe. Of course, the seasons also have an impact on what is being served, as some ingredients are only available for a limited time. Specifically the use of sakura in Spring and chestnuts in Autumn.

Another fun thing about yatai at matsuri is that they are sensitive to trends. A few years ago, several types of drinks were sold in all sorts of weirdly shaped glasses. Another recent thing was colourful drinks served in a light bulb.

As you would expect from a mobile food stall, the idea is to get your food in your hand pretty quickly. But some stalls have become so popular that you might have to patient and queue for a while. I once saw two yatai side by side, selling exactly the same food. One with only a few customers waiting and the other one with a huge line of people in front of it, that just kept growing. So either that yatai was very famous, or it was well known for serving good food. If you're traveling in group or with someone else, definitely put this to the test and see whether it's true. As I often travel solo, and can't eat two portions of the same dish, I haven't been able to test this myself.

You can see the yatai staff and owners, as well as food artists at work and discover many specialities. I once saw a confectioner create candy in the shape of different animals such as horses, dragons and cats. But as it was summer, sadly the ones I bought melted during my return to Belgium and they all lost their beautiful shape.

During my first trip in Japan. I visited the Mitama matsuri, the huge summer festivities in Tokyo. The number of yatai was impressive, it was amazing to experience such an atmosphere.
I have been lucky enough to visit many matsuri all over Japan, and of course I've tried different kinds of food during those visits.
On warm days, I recommend the chilled cucumber with miso paste. But get more than one portion. It's cheap, but just one won't fill you up!
Takoyaki is often my first choice, but after six pieces I'm usually wishing I had a bigger appetite so I could eat fried octopus, yaki soba, dango (grilled mochi), sweet potato and other delicious dishes.
The advantage of visiting with friends is not only that you're guaranteed to have a good time, but you can also all get different dishes and share amongst each other. That way you can try much more food than a person on their own.
If you're not very hungry, the anzu is perfect. It's fruit on a stick, rolling in melted sugar. With purchase you can even play a game and possibly even win another one for free. I've never won though. If you're not keen on candy, but you like fruit, there are always fresh fruit options. Usually pineapple, watermelon and apples, but I did see a yatai in *Asakusa* sell strawberries.

In conclusion, not only are yatai at matsuri really easy places to find food, they are also the opportunity to try many specialities.
Another advantage is that you can see what's being cooked on the spot. Even if you can't read Japanese, this, together with the signage on the stall, will immediately let you know what's being sold.
Unless you spend your entire day there, trying a lot of dishes, the food is really affordable as well. So not only is a matsuri and eating at a yatai something you should experience because it's fun, it's also an excellent thing to do when you're traveling on a budget.

Visit:
PRAGUE

Czech Republic

We at BCM often receive questions of where in Belgium and Europe is good to visit.
We aren't travel agents, but we can make recommendations!
So in this **Visit!** feature we will focus on a European city, museum or landmark, per edition.

Praha is beautiful capital of the Czech Republic. Picture perfect and a mix of history, old architecture and the modern times.

www.praguecitytourism.cz/en

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert

Plenty of old architecture, definitely take a walk from one part of old town to the other via the *Charles Bridge*. Not only is the bridge itself full of amazing statues, the view is also spectacular. Or you can take a boat ride to go from one side to the other. Another alternative to see Prague is via an oldtimer car.

Prague's *town square*, at the heart of *old town Praha* isn't just homes to cafes, restaurants and some shops. It also houses several historical buildings, which you can visit, as well as its world famous *astronomical clock*. Definitely stop by to have a look, as the clock has many moving parts and its well worth seeing it in action and enjoy the atmosphere of the square.

Prague is famous, or should we say infamous, for its absinthe. Buyer beware though, most of it is decidedly unhealthy as well as utterly overpriced. If you do want to try the green fairy, visit one of the Absintherie bars. Ask for it to be served WITHOUT dry ice though, as it will ruin the flavour and it's not actually fit for human consumption. Try one of the French Absinthes such as Jade Edouard, Roquette or Perroquette.

The *St-Vitus Cathedral* is the largest church in Prague, but definitely not the only one. It is, however, the crown piece of the *Prague castle complex*. Which is worth the visit if you're into local history and immense gardens.
Do be aware that a ticket to the complex doesn't give you access to every museum and building in the complex. Nor does purchasing a photo pass give you permission to photograph in each building.

The House of the Black Madonna is not only a famous piece of architecture in Prague, it is also home to the *Museum of Czech Kubism*. That's another thing about Prague, you will find entire complexes and interesting museums hidden behind a historical facade, so make sure to stop and investigate, rather than to walk them by!

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Spots of colour

Hat, vintage/thrifted at T2. **Frames**, Theo. **Sweater**, Primark. **Dress**, Primark. **Tights**, H&M. **Boots**. Kickers.

Goggles, So Yesterday Things. **Dress**, infanta. **Corset**, Fan+Friend. **Everything else**, thrifted or offbrand,

MK

Hat, thrifted/vintage. **Goggles**, DIY customisation. **Choker**, handmade. **Cardigan**, Primark. **Harness**, handmade. **Dress**, Innocent World. **Belts**, thrifted. **Skirt**, Alice and the Pirates. **Tights**, offbrand. **Spats**, PasiondeSastre. **Boots**, Brako Anatomics. **Other accessories**, Les Racines, Claire's and offbrand,

Cardigan, Primark. **Tanktop**, Puvithel. **Skirt and underskirt**, offbrand. **Tights**, etsy seller. **Socks**, CherryCheezy. **Shoes**, Gabor. **Accessories**, etsy sellers and offbrand.

Hat, H&M. **Frames**, Theo. **Scarf**, H&M. **Top**, Monki. **Dress**, Monki. **Tights**, Sonia Rykiel x H&M. **Shoes**. ASOS.

Hat, thrifted/vintage. **Goggles**, offbrand. **Necklace**, Veritas. **Pocket watch necklace**, offbrand. **JSK**, Long Ears & Sharp Ears' Studio. **Blouse**, thrifted. **Wristcuffs**, Summer Tales Boutique. **Belt**, Primark. **Tights**, Veritas. **Boots**, Brako Anatomics.

Hat, UNIQLO kids. **Frames**, Zenni Optical. **Scarf**, H&M. **Cardigan**, Primark. **Blouse**, Forever 21. **Skirt**, DIY with Rougeaerie Design fabric. **Petticoat**, Dear Celine. **Tights**, H&M. **Boots**. Kickers.

Blouse, vintage/thrifted at T2. **Skirt**, handmade. **Tights**, offbrand. **Socks**, CherryCheezy. **Shoes**, Wolky.
Buttons & pins, Disneyland Paris, Stad Antwerpen, etsy sellers and offbrand.

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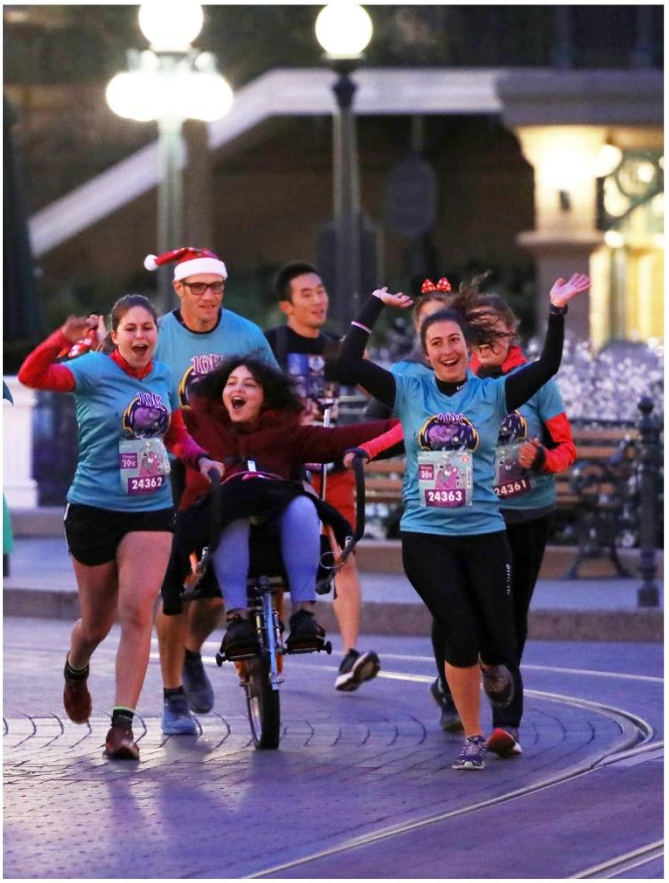
Photographic impressions of

RunDisney

5K, 10K, 21K and Kids race.
September 22 & 23 2018, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France.

Photography: official press photography for the event.



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2018
1/2 MARATHON
2018

Event: Photokina
What: photography convention
When: September 26-29 2018
Where: Koelnmesse, Cologne, Germany
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula and the day of your visit (Saturday is cheapeast)
Website: photokina.com

Photokina is widely regarded as one of the largest photography conventions in the world. It's the place where brands, all of them whether they are small indi brands or the big ones everyone knows, go all out, and where you can see everything that's new and about to be released. BCM is full of photography, so obviously, equipment is a big thing for us. The reason to go to Photokina, however, was twofold. Firstly to see what would come out that would be interesting to us specifically, but also to see in how far an event like Photokina is interesting to the casual hobby photographer.
We visited on the Saturday, because that was the only day we felt tickets were affordable. You'll notice why when you look at the website, trust me on that.

Photokina is huge. If you have ever been to a photography convention in Belgium, multiply it by at least 20. The bigger the brand, the bigger the stand. And a lot of stands have brought models for you to shoot. This may seem like a ton of fun if you don't get a lot of studio shooting opportunity normally, but please keep in mind that it is also a little bit of a free for all. Especially when you shoot with a more casual set-up, photographers with big cameras and lenses can be jerks. Because they tend to feel that the bigger and pricier the gear, the more entitled they are to shooting in your spot, if you happen to have a better spot. So be prepared for that. It's not like that at every stand of course, but it does happen. If you just like shooting models, it's not worth the trip (unless you're already local). There is undoubtedly a photography convention in your own country that will provide you with the same opportunity. For Belgians, that's *Photo Days*.

Photokina is not a selling event on the whole (stands where you can actually buy things are in the vast minority), which I actually think is quite good as it avoids you making expensive impulse buys. Plus, it plays into Photokina's real strength, and the reason it is so interesting for everyone interested in photography: you can get very hands on with a brands full catalogue. Pretty much everything already available, and everything about to be released.

If you are looking into getting a DSLR, a new lens, accessories, equipment, or heck, an Instax camera: this is by and large the place to be to really test things or learn more about it at a lecture. All brands are like that, but *Fujifilm* especially went all out with their Instax village, where you could have your photo taken, scrapbook, make a calendar and test *Instax* cameras (especially SQ20, the newest addition to the Instax family), all free of charge. If you are super into Instax, that village alone might make it totally worth your while. I certainly enjoyed it.

And an added bonus is, for those that aren't into the digital grind: Photokina still supports analog! And not just *Lomography* (*Lomo*, you love it or hate it, but if you do love it: there's a big selling stand), but plenty of other analog brands were present.

Make sure to put a good amount of photos you would enjoy printing on your smartphone beforehand though, because you'll need those for a lot of free printing fun at several stands!

Another large downside to Photokina is the food and drink prices. There's a fair variety of food stands, but they are very, very pricy. Usually for portions that aren't that big. And we saw very few vegetarian options, and whilst we don't look into it that closely, we fear for vegans. Keep in mind that Germany had tax on PET bottles, meaning that you will pay an extra 20 cents which you can get back when you return the empty bottle. You can do it wherever they sell drinks in bottles, however, and there is a returns machine (if it's not full). So make sure to do that before the end of the event, especially if you have a couple of them. I would advise to bring your own food and drinks if you have dietary requirements, just to be on the safe side.

On top of that, Photokina, especially for a first time visitor, is so large it's chaotic. It can be very hard to find anything due to the way the convention is laid out and unless you are going for a specific brand, it is very hard to see everything in just one day. Which only contributes to my belief that Photokina is pretty much only there for the professional or people truly (wanting to get) into photography.

Basically, if you are passionate about photography and the latest developments, Photokina might very well be your thing. If you're happy to just shoot with your mobile phone and/or basic camera and ignore everything else, I wouldn't suggest it. I'm still not convinced you need to go here if you go to your local photography convention, though. I am inclined to say no, unless you are seriously considering new gear and you feel like you won't be able to test it as well at your local convention alternative.

Review and photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

Event: Halloween season
What: Disneyland Paris does Halloween
When: October 1 - 31 2018
Where: Disneyland Park, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: disneylandparis.com

After a year where Halloween was mostly banned to Frontierland because of the 25th anniversary, the season is now back in full swing. We went right at the beginning of the season, in the first week. This meant that not all decorations were out, no new release Halloween pins were sold and several other merchandise and themed food bits and bobs hadn't arrived yet either. Which is an issue that has been going on for years, and it's still not on. *Disneyland Paris* should make sure that everything is ready at the start, and that's that. This year, they were also encouraging people to stay on site, by only having *devil Donald* and *Halloween Pluto* out during extra magical hours (a privilege of on-site hotel guests and annual pass holders). Although devil Donald has been known to make sporadic appearances during the daytime. Other characters, such as *Stitch* in his Halloween costume near *Casey's*, or *Goofy* with his candy machine near *Town Square*, were out during day time for everyone to meet though.

This is also the first year when you could go to *City Hall* and ask for a free Halloween button. But you had to know about it and go and ask for it. We had to be in City Hall for something else, and no one told us about it, and only found out about it through insta after our trip. So if you plan on going to Disneyland Paris: stalk Disneyland Paris fan accounts on socials the second you book to make sure you are 100% informed. DLP is sadly lacking in that department, but luckily the internet isn't! Especially for special events doing this is a must, if you want to profit of everything.

This year, they had shuffled around the Main Street ghosts, so whilst most of them are still around, they're mostly in different spots. There were also less Jack o' Lanterns on the buildings, but they made up for that by hanging lanterns all through the street that light up after dark. Which is very pretty and atmospheric.

There also was a new cavalcade, a mini parade, called *Mickey's Halloween Celebration*. With a brand new song, brand new *Phantom Manor* inspired float, new characters, new dancers and routines. It followed the parade route only twice a day and was an absolute must see if this sort of thing is your cup of tea. What made this special was the little show attached to the cavalcade, that started once it reached Central Plaza.

Frontierland was once again a mix of formerly Main Street ghosts and Frontierland pumpkin people. Some of the old autumnal decorations had been given new paint, also. Just like last year, the area starting at *Big Thunder Mountain* was dedicated to *Coco*. *Miguel* was back at *Fuente del Oro* (which is Coco themed year 'round). And you could meet other Mariachi characters: *Mickey*, *Minnie* and *José Carioca* and *Panchito* of the *Three Caballeros* there as well. And of course, as has been Halloween tradition since 2008, *Jack Skellington* greets guests for most of the day. He's usually one of the most interactive characters you can meet, so well worth the queue time.

Adventureland wasn't particularly dressed up for Halloween, other than the pirate Jack o' Lantern tree outside *Le Coffre du Capitaine*, where they also sell some Halloween merch.

Fantasyland was home to *Maleficent*, her court of villains and the bramble dragon, as it has been for several years now. Villains meet and greets were rather well organised this year, but being there well in time is still the only guarantee for a successful villain interaction. This goes especially for the *Cheshire Cat*, who was out near *Small World* and only for a very short time a day. But his meet in particular was very well organised, hopefully they'll keep him out longer next year!

This year, Disneyland Paris had caught onto the themed food that other parks are so famous for. Aside from their traditional Halloween menu, they also really expanded on the amount of snacks on offer. The snacks were mostly very sugary, going from cookies to donuts, to candies, but it's a start. And if you can't get enough of the seasonal foods, the Halloween pasta was sold this year as well, in stores that carried Halloween merch. Whist there were some repeat merchandise items, and some selling off of old stock from previous years, there were also quite a few new pieces, so Disney was definitely at least making an effort for their Halloween season.

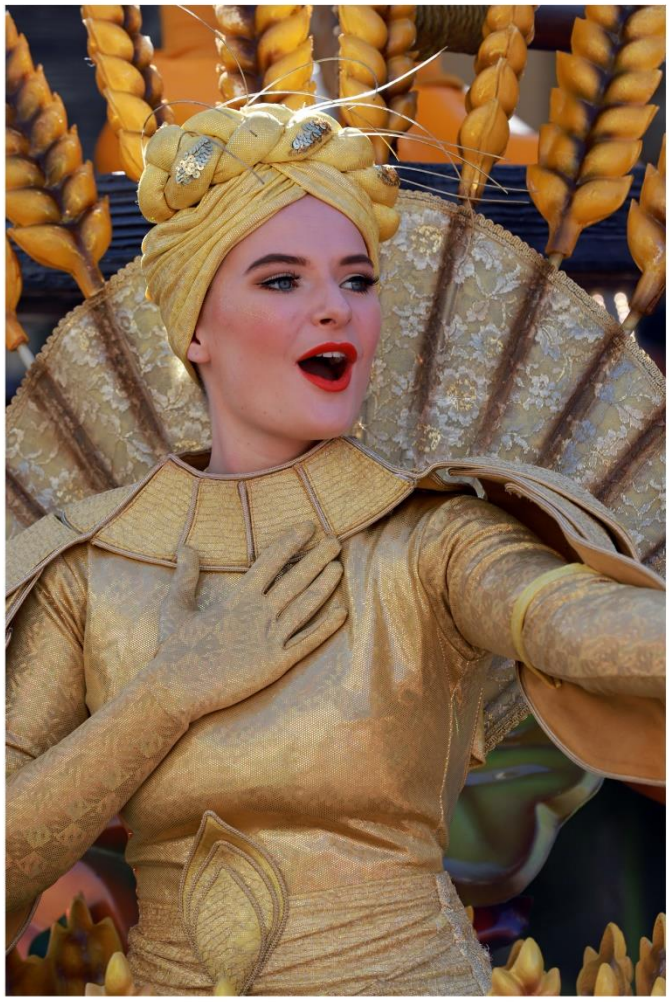
Disney Village, the street outside of the parks that is free for everyone to visit, regardless of whether or not you have a ticket for one or both parks, was also dressed up for Halloween. They had gone much further in their decorations, and it looked like a lot of fun with its 90s vibes and refurbished old park décor from when Frontierland was still *Halloweenland*. Whilst the decorations are all there, the actual Village Halloween celebration didn't start 'till October 20th, ending with a big party on October 31st.

All in all, Disneyland Paris put on a pretty good show for their 2018 Halloween season. Some things were awesome new additions, some things are timeless classics that everyone is glad to see return, and some things needed work, various degrees of work. If you love Halloween, celebrating it somewhere throughout October at Disneyland Paris (please note that the closer to Halloween, the more crowded it gets) is not a bad idea at all. If 2018 is to go by and they keep this up and improve on it, 2019 will be rather worth a Disney Halloween fan's while I imagine.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photography by ED92 (character photos) and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

TOYS AND DOLLS

Rainforest Cafe



Event: Expo Van Gogh
What: immersive expo about the life and art of Vincent Van Gogh
When: October 10 2018 - March 10 2019
Where: Stock Exchange, Brussels, Belgium
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: expovangogh.be

Everyone, even people that aren't specifically into art, modern or otherwise, knows the name *Vincent van Gogh*. There's an entire museum devoted to him in Amsterdam, he was part of many pop culture phenomena. Many sci-fi enthusiasts will remember the heart wrenching *Vincent and the Doctor* episode of *Doctor Who*. It should thus come to no surprise that the old *Stock Exchange* building, in the heart of the Belgian capital, was transformed into an immersive exhibition dedicated to the life and works of the master impressionist.
To great success, because the expo hasn't been prolonged once, but twice. It is currently running 'till March 10.

That Vincent van Gogh led a tragic life, and undoubtedly suffered from mental illness, is something most people know. And whilst Expo Van Gogh does cover this part of his life quite extensively, it also addresses the rest of his life and career. There are info walls all over, in English, French and Dutch. As well quotes by the master.
From the first room where we are introduced to van Gogh's bedroom (not an interactive piece, FIY), his general career and the green screen photo booth. The latter is an add on you have to pay extra for (€15, no less) but that allows you to take a souvenir photo where you become part of a work by van Gogh. If you don't mind shelling out that kind of cash for a photo, then it's definitely a fun souvenir to have. If not, well you're better off finding another spot in the expo for an outfit shot or some such.

From the first room you step right into the life and works of van Gogh. The main room of the venue has been transformed in an interactive timeline covering everything from his sketches and letters to his brother Theo to all eras of his work. Not just covering famous pieces such as his self portraits, the *Sunflowers* or *Starry Night*, but also lesser known works. The entire area has become interactive, immersive projections literally surrounding you into the life and works of Vincent van Gogh. Most of the floor is covered in thick, comfortable mats, pillows and chairs. Along with the benches along the sides of the room, there is plenty of room to sit (or stand if you prefer) and enjoy the entire feed. Which takes about half an hour at least. It's also set up in a way that the area is accessible for people with limited mobility. I fear that some of the other rooms of the exhibition are a little more problematic as there isn't quite as much space to move easily.

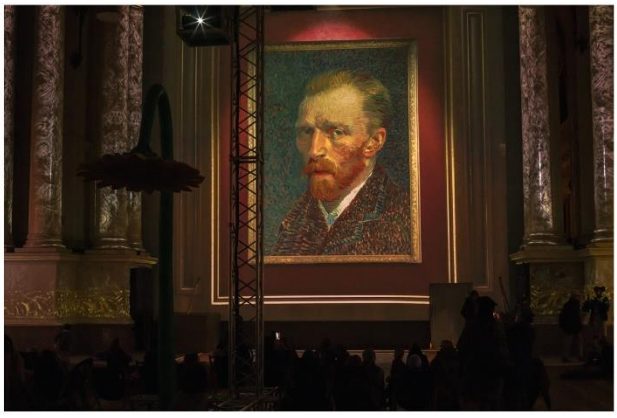
Another room offers you a glimpse inside the methods used by van Gogh to create his pieces, and on the walls here you'll find reproductions of some of his most painting, including Starry Night.

If you feel inspired to try your own hand at impressionism, you absolutely can. An entire side room has been set up with art supplies and benches for people that feel like getting creative. Some of the works are displayed on the walls, also. Be aware that the amount of materials provided are limited so if you're serious about doing art there, you might want to bring some of your own materials just to be sure you'll have some that you'll want to use.

Next up is the VR experience, which is also for an additional price of €2. We didn't do it, not because it cost €2 but because there was quite a long wait for it, as it was very popular. People seemed to be enjoying it, so if that's something you'd like to try out, bring some extra money and be prepared to queue for it. Especially if you're going on a Wednesday afternoon or during the weekend.

Last but not least, it was exit through the gift shop. And you might think that a gift shop is just a staple and not much more, but the way it was set up it really blended into the rest of the exhibition, so we feel it deserves a mention.

All in all, this really is an exhibition that children, people that are just casually interested in art or die-hard art history buffs and van Gogh fans can enjoy. The way it's presented is unique and interesting, and we feel it is well worth the ticket price. It's up there in the same price range as a regular museum exhibition, the only difference is that this is much better than most expos we've seen. Also: the *Haunted Mansion* has nothing on the changing paintings of Expo Van Gogh.

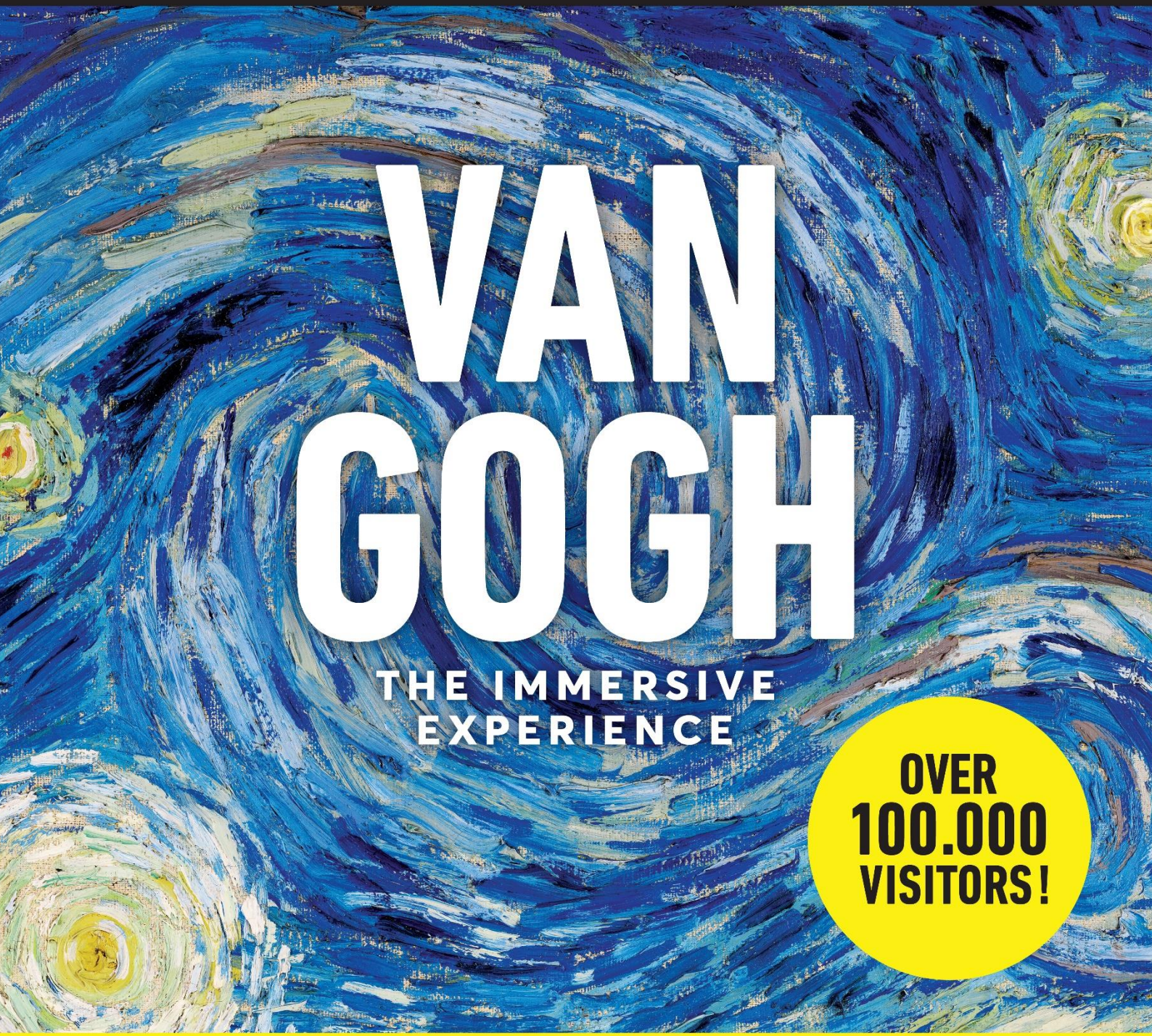


Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

★★★★★
"FENOMENALE VIRTUELE PROJECTIES"
Het Laatste Nieuws

★★★★★
"UNE RÉUSSITE TOTALE"
Sud Presse

★★★★★
"COUREZ-Y VITE EN FAMILLE"
La Dernière Heure



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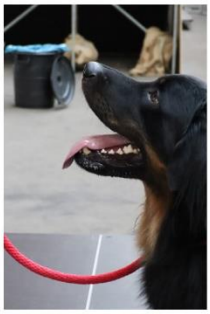


Event: Canon Experience Days
What: photography convention for Canon users
When: October 13 & 14 2018
Where: Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium
Ticket price: €25 per day
Website: www.canon.be

Canon Experience Days is nothing like events such as *Photokina* or *Photo Days*. Where those are conventions focussing on photography as a whole, this one is organised by *Canon* for Canon users. It's advertised strictly through the Canon newsletter, which makes sense as it's a Canon only kind of thing, but it's still not a very good way to go about things.

If you are very into photography, it's actually well worth the €25 per day ticket price it, considering what you get back from it. And you got a free drink included. The weekend is back to back lectures and workshops. On a wide variety of topics such as street photography, concert photography, low light studio, sports, dog photography, family portrait, vlogging, wedding photography and more.

Sounds good right? Well, yeah… it was, but a few things could have been better. It should have started at 9am, but it doors didn't open 'till nearly 9.30. We were told that we couldn't make reservations for a workshop later in the day, that it would be on first come first served basis. But at the first workshop we went to: concert photography, we were told that you could in fact, still make a reservation for a workshop later in the day! One of us did, only to discover that not only was the workshop over capacity, he couldn't make use of all the equipment because that was given to someone that did in fact _not_ have a reservation.
You could try out and even borrow lenses at your leisure all throughout the venue, BUT you had to leave your phone number in order to do so. Your mobile phone number. When I asked what would be done with that information, they were unable to answer, so that's a GDPR nightmare right there. Needless to say, I didn't give my number and stuck to the gear I had with me. If you are sensitive about your personal details, that's a bit of an issue. Not just that, but you can also not use the free wifi unless, you guessed it, you leave your mobile number when you register for it… (the latter is a Tour & Taxis issue though, but it does mean neither Canon nor Tour & Taxis were taking the GDPR to heart).

Whilst they had an amazing sound system for the concert photography, where only the photographers could hear the music through headphones, the entire venue was seriously bothered by the skate ramp for the sports photography, which you could do throughout the day. Either on your own, or in a workshop setting. It was particularly bothersome in the workshop and lecture domes closest to the dome. And many people had lost their voice, at least partially by the end of the day. But that said, many people addressed these issues to staff, who were very responsive, took note, and realised themselves that these were in fact problems that needed to be dealt with. So I'm pretty sure that next edition, if that also takes place in Tour & Taxis, these problems won't be there.

These things aside, the Canon Experience Days were excellent. It was an opportunity to try out equipment you don't have at home, or learn things about a field you wanted to learn more of. It was definitely very educational. Considering the vast amount of workshops you could choose from, €25 was reasonable, even though it seems pricy at first.

There was lots of space to sit, so you could change lenses, simply relax for a moment, or eat. Either you could bring your own food, or buy it there, even though there was only one food stand and so the options were a little limited if you didn't want to leave the venue. The prices were affordable, which is always a good thing. So at least this was one event properly accessible for people with limited mobility.

The workshops and lectures and free drinks weren't the only one you got for your entrance fee, you could also get prints of the photos you took that day on all kinds of formats. Ranging from their own Zink printer (which uses much better Zink paper than the HP and Polaroid versions do so make sure to get the Canon paper when you own such a device), to postcard size prints, A4, A3 and larger prints! All for free.

So even though this event had some kinks, which I'm sure will be ironed out next year, it was absolutely worth it. So much so that I regretted not going both days. But despite of the issues, it was still amazing because you got so much value for your money and you could learn so many new things. If you shoot Canon and want to improve on your photography skills without taking a series of classes or going into photography education, this is definitely an event I can recommend.

Review and photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

Photographic impressions of the
Disneyland Paris Soirée Halloween

Wednesday, October 31 2018; Disneyland Park, Marne-la-Vallée, France

Photography by ED92

Event: Japan Con
What: J-culture/AsiaMania convention
When: November 3 & 4 2018
Where: Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium
Ticket price: ranging between €9-20, depending on the formula
Website: japancon.be

Japan Con moved to *Tour & Taxis*, Brussels for its second edition! Formerly held at Antwerp earlier this year, this J-culture convention took place on the 3th and 4th of November 2018. The event is organised by the same crew as *Comic Con Antwerp/Ghent/Brussels*, and *Elftopia*. We visited on the Sunday, so this review is based on that day alone.

French fans, and everyone else who was glued to French TV back in the 1980s, would have been delighted by this edition. Nearly all of the guests were big *Club Dorothée* names, including *Patrick Borg* (*Dragon Ball*), *Philippe Arrioti* (Dragon Ball), and *Nicky Larson* himself: *Vincent Ropion* (*City Hunter*). *Anthony Kabeya*, the official singer of the French *Pokémon* themes, was also present. As autographs were free, Japan Con was a great moment to revisit your childhood, and to meet the voices behind popular French anime dubs. Visitors who weren't into Club Dorothée had a concert by the J-Rock singer/songwriter *Lightning* to look forward to. As well as the cosplay competition, a cosplay talk on all sorts of things that go at events, as well as other fun things throughout the day.

Brussels conventions have a longstanding reputation to be a mess, language-wise. There always seems to be a futile feud going on between French on one side, and English/Dutch on the other. Japan Con (just like Comic Con Brussels) refused to play along. They invited vendors from both sides of the country. Even the manga vendors, resulting in a balanced mix of French and English volumes available at this event: a rarity in Brussels. We also saw workshops presented in different languages, which is always a plus in a multilingual city.

The market booths were well spaced out, making it easy to relax and shop at your leisure, making the convention also easily accessible to people with limited mobility. A nice variety of shops was present, offering items for both casual fans and hard-core collectors (something I've been missing at recent conventions, as a lot of them have become much more aimed at a mainstream audience in the past years). One counterpoint against this edition of Japan Con: we spotted a lot more bootleg than last time.

The activities available provided a nice mix between traditional Japanese activities such as *kumihimo* (a Japanese form or braid making) and *sumi-e* (ink wash painting), to name but a few, and more modern activities such as *Gundam* construction, *Dance Dance Revolution* and karaoke. Not all workshops were free, but the participation fee was reasonable.

Tour & Taxis has already proven plenty of times to be a good convention venue, as it's spacious and easy to reach by public transport. The organisers have kept up with the habit of inviting food trucks to their conventions, supplying fans with Asian-themed snacks at fairly decent prices. Aside from that, there is plenty of food and drinks available inside from vendors as well as the organisation's own restauration stand. On top of that, packing your own meals is absolutely allowed, so if don't want to spend money on food and drinks at the event, you don't have to. But the variety available throughout Japan Con is likely going to make you want to try at least one of two things.
The venue also offered plenty of seating space if you wanted to take a break, which we always appreciate. In fact, they had set up the seating space in clear view of the stage, giving people that preferred to sit rather than stand to see the events there ample opportunity to do so.
As far as mobility friendly conventions go, Japan Con really hit the mark.

It's nice to see new J-Culture blood flow into the Belgian convention scene. We have comic cons aplenty these days, but aside from *Made in Asia* and *Atsusacon*, we seem to be rather lacking in the J-Culture scene in comparison. While Japan Con is still small in size, perhaps even a tad too small when compared to the final ticket price paid at the entrance if you didn't get a ticket at the presales, it has a lot of potential to grow into something great. We definitely would like to see how the edition of November 2 and 3 of this year will turn out!

Review by Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

3

drbelgium

JAPAN

Photographic impressions of the MICKEY 90 celebrations in Brussels

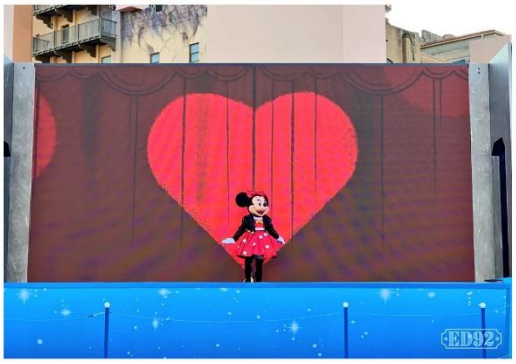
November 12-17, throughout the Brussels inner city, Belgium.

Photography by Disney Belgium and ED92.

Photographic impressions of the MICKEY 90 celebrations Disneyland Paris

November 17, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France.

Photography by ED92.



Event: Christmas season
What: Christmas at Disneyland Paris
When: November 10 2018 - January 6 2019
Where: Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France
Ticket price: very, very varied;
depending on the formula
Website: www.disneylandparis.com

Whilst *Disneyland Paris* is pretty well known for it's seasonal events, their most popular one is undoubtedly their *Christmas* season. Running from November 'till January, the park goes all out before and after Christmas to give guests a fabulous holiday experience. At least, that's what they claim in the marketing.
But do they?

When it comes to decorations, they are absolutely killing it. Even more so than with *Halloween*, Christmas is present throughout the park. Even though decorations aren't present in every area of the parks, you often see trees, ornaments and small décor bits and pieces pop up throughout stores and restaurants, as well as the hotels. Which you can visit to look around, or enjoy a drink or a meal, even if you're not staying there.

If you're on Main Street USA, it's full blown Christmas, with ornaments on both Town Square and Central Plaza, snoap (snow made of soap, we do hope it's bio degradable and eco friendly!) and garlands strung between and on the Main Street buildings. There's a beautiful massive Christmas tree in both parks and a tree lighting ceremony takes place every day up 'till the 25th in the *Disneyland Park*. The Castle gets lit up once it gets dark, you can meet *Santa* in the Disneyland Park and *Santa Goofy* in the *Walt Disney Studios Park*, as well as various other characters in Christmas attire in both parks. We especially recommend *Jack Skellington* in his *Sandy Claws* outfit. He's not the cutest or prettiest character, but if you can only meet one during your visit, stop by his spot in *Frontierland* because you will be assured of an incredible interaction. If this isn't enough character fun for you, there's a Christmas parade in the Disneyland Park and shows in both parks, both inside and outside. Especially Mickey's Big Band, previously a show that took place inside Vidéopolis, but this recently moved towards the theatre inside the Walt Disney Studios Park, deserves a special mention. That said, the other shows were fun, also. The Christmas parade, whilst fun to see, has not changed in recent years, and sadly only goes out twice a day, in slots very close to each other. Spreading it out a little more and adding a third slot would definitely be a good idea!

Those wanting to take a break from all the Christmas could watch Surprise Mickey on the outdoors stage at Production Courtyard in the Studios, making up for a nice change from the seasonal offerings.

Both parks provided a special Christmas menu, available in specific restaurants. We didn't try them, so we can't tell you whether or not they are any good, but be prepared to shell out extra just because these are seasonal with limited availability. On top of that, there were stalls in both the *Studios Park* and *Disney Village*, as their own little Christmas market, where you could get some snacks and drinks. Be prepared to pay through the nose for them though, in most cases.
And, of course, there is a whole slew of Christmas merch available. Buyer beware though, because whilst some pieces are of excellent quality, a fair amount of them isn't or just isn't worth the price. But the majority was good quality.

So far it sounds good right? Now, **is it actually worth it?**
We would say yes, if you go at the beginning of the season and avoid the actual Christmas period and holidays. Or *Armstic Day*. Those days are crowded as hell. Hell being the operational word. You'll have to queue for literally everything. Rides, characters, food and even the toilet. In the bitter cold. Disneyland Paris isn't very good at crowd control. This has been an issue for years. Whilst it definitely helped that there were more meet and greets and shows in the Studios Park, making sure that during the day time the Disneyland Park wasn't that crowded, it got very, very crowded towards 4pm when people were coming back for the parade. So once the Studios Park closed, the Disneyland Park was swamped. Whilst the queuing was already really rather bad.
On top of all of that, the parks get so busy and DLP doesn't even open up all the restaurants, meaning that it can take over half an hour just to be able to order your food, only for you to have to go and eat it outside. Yes, eating outside during winter. Which is simply unacceptable for what you pay to be there during peak season. If they insist on charging people more because it is peak season, they should also make sure that guests at least have basic comfort such as being able to eat inside, in the warmth. The day we visited it was simply cold, but imagine the nightmare if it had not only been cold, but also rained, because not all the outdoors seating areas are covered (most are not).
Please note that whilst DLP does a lot of effort to accommodate people with limited mobility and disabilities, and succeeds in many ways, there are issues when the park is this crowded. Especially if you have problems queuing or standing, this is not a good time for you to visit.

If you're living for Christmas and Disney, we would absolutely recommend visiting Disneyland Paris during the Christmas season. But do it after November 14 or early December and in the middle of the week, before the parks get super crowded. That will give you ample chance to enjoy things without massive queues for everything. Also be aware that to full enjoy everything they have on offer when it comes to Christmas, you'll need at least two days, as things are very well spread out amongst both parks, and to a much lesser extend: Disney Village.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert with input of Marie Huberty, Maureen Huberty Bert Van den Wyngaert.
Photography by ED92, Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Coca-Cola

ED92

ED92

INGRÉDIENTS
USTENSILES

ED92

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STUDIOS

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OPEN
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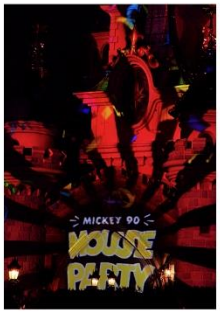


Event: Mouse Party
What: Hard ticket after hours event for Mickey Mouse's 90th birthday
When: December 6 2018
Where: Disneyland Park, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France
Ticket price: varied, depending on the package

On December 6th, *Disneyland Paris* organized a special annual passholder party to celebrate *Mickey*'s 90th anniversary, which was a hard ticket event. Meaning that not only did you already have to be an AP holder, you also had to buy a separate ticket to gain entry to the party, which was an afterhours event. Or that you had to be invited by an AP holder, and have that separate ticket on top of your invite. Meaning that unlike events such as the *Soirée Halloween*, which are just hard ticket and afterhours, it made attending just a little more difficult.

First thing I noticed and found odd was the choice of date. The party did not happen on November 18th, Mickey's actual anniversary. On top of that, it took place on a Thursday, which doesn't make it easier for people to be able to attend.
This party also had the worst opening that I have experienced so far. Usually a waiting/entry area is improvised using gate elements creating a queue that makes it easy for staff to check whether or not people have all the necessary documents to enter the event.
For *Mouse Party*, that designated area was the entrance of the park underneath the *Disneyland Hotel*, which was far too small, creating a queue that went on far outside *Fantasia Gardens* (the rather large area just in front of the Disneyland Hotel). Placing all cast members at the entrance was also a faux pas, as people had no one to ask questions, which resulted in **chaos**.
There was also no section for people with disabilities, which created situations that were not only uncomfortable to them, but also dangerous. Once the party had officially started, people went a little crazy trying to get in, so being stuck in that mob in a wheelchair, or on crutches, was simply dangerous. Whilst Disneyland Paris excels at a lot of handicapped services for rides, shows and parades, they continue to under-perform for events, which really needs to change before someone gets hurt.

Mouse Party was the first ever Annual Passport party to be held in the Disneyland Park. Previously, all of them took place in the *Walt Disney Studios Park*.
There were quite a few elements to be appreciated for sure. All the blue and silver decorations of the Christmas season had been changed into red and yellow, which was a really nice touch.
Some enthusiastic cast members had aligned themselves on the *Main Street U.S.A.* sidewalks to welcome guests and it definitely created an friendly **atmosphere** when entering.

Most of the **entertainment** took place on a main stage built on *Central Plaza* itself. Sleeping Beauty Castle, like the far end of Central Plaza, was roped off to create a kind of bad stage. A fun element was watching the characters wait for their time to get on stage as they were dancing and playing with each other and guests.
Unfortunately, the stage was quite low and most shows were performed facing Main Street U.S.A. so it was quite difficult to get a good view. A higher stage would definitely have helped.

The area for disabled guests was on the left side, close to Adventureland, which was a step up from some past events as there was a separate area for them, meaning it was great in terms of safety. However, it was not great in terms of visibility as most of the shows were not facing them.
So I guess most of them were not able to enjoy to shows properly, which is a shame.

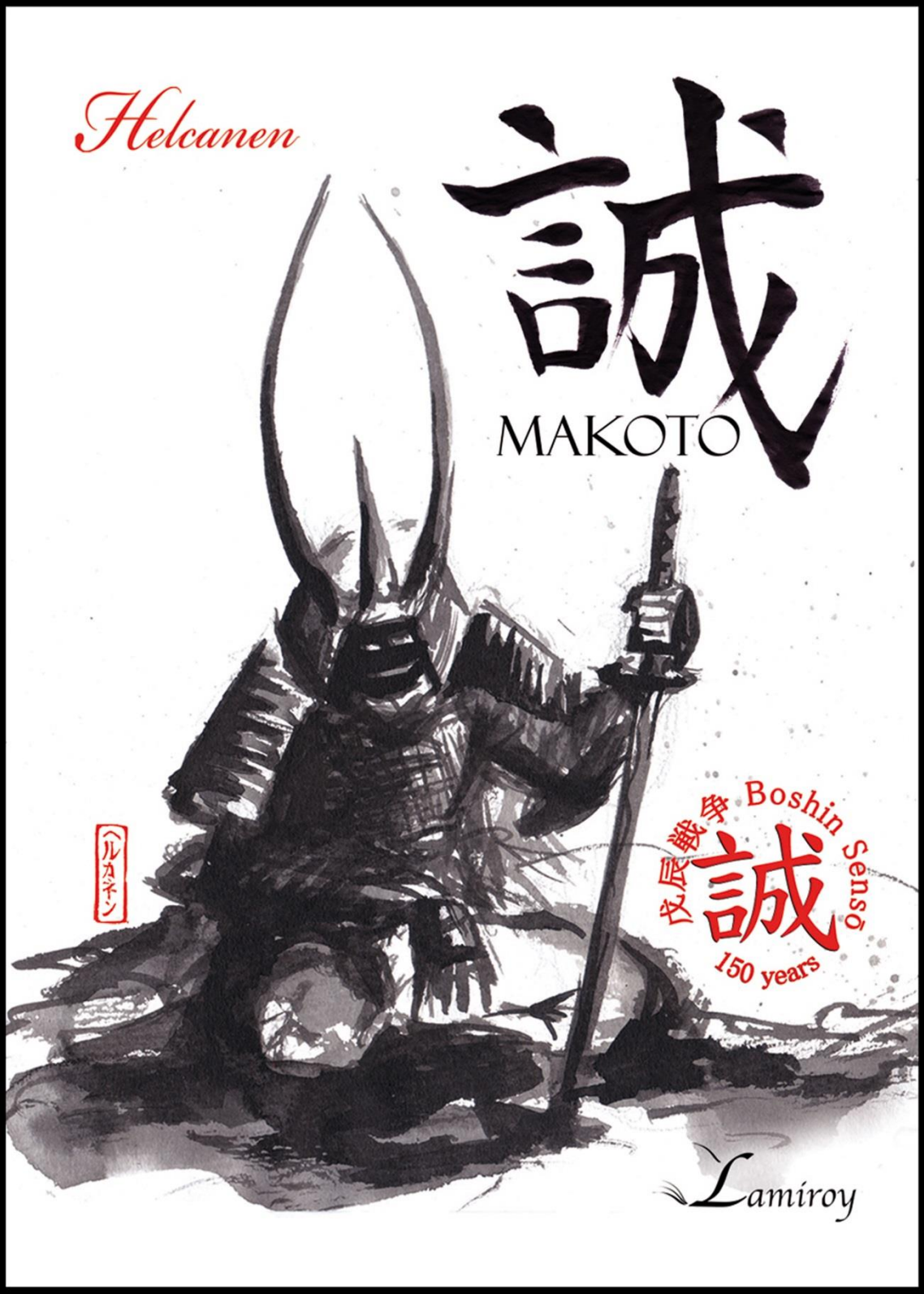
The opening ceremony was nice and definitely worth checking out and *Les Folies de Mickey et Minnie* was a really nice surprise. Many characters were on stage to represent the different lands and celebrate Mickey's birthday, which probably brought back memories of another anniversary to many of us.
The closing ceremony was another character dance **show** which began with the *Celebrate! 90 years of Mickey Mouse* projection show which was also happening every night before *Disney Illuminations* during *Mickey's Anniversary Season*. It is a short but intense show that is absolutely wonderful.
And finally, the icing on the cake, was another viewing of *Disney Dreams*, the predecessor of Illuminations. As happy as I was to be able to enjoy it once again, I think the choice is more of a crowd pleaser than anything else. Because the focal point of Dreams is *Peter Pan*, whilst that of Illuminations is Mickey Mouse himself.

When it comes to the **music**, Disneyland Paris did, as usual, an awesome job. We could listen to the iconic *Soundsational* soundtrack from the *Disneyland Resort* and the Mouse Party theme song was incredibly catchy. However, we heard that main theme song countless times to the point where it eventually was starting to annoy most guests. It would have been better to alternate it with *It's a Good Time*: the World's Biggest Mouse Party hymm, *Mickey's Birthday Song* and *What We Got*, in my opinion. Rather than stick just the one song on a continuous loop.

The program mentioned that there would be over 40 **characters** present for Mouse Party. Whilst that was true, most of them were on stage and not nearly enough of them at photo locations. Also, even if two different characters were meeting at a location, you could only meet one at the time. Rather than do the logical thing and have guests queue to meet them one after the other, you had to queue twice to meet both. This was especially problematic as the meet and greet areas weren't large enough to accommodate the amount of people wanting to partake, meaning queues got closed off very quickly.
As a long time fan and someone that loves character interactions at meet and greets, it rubbed me entirely the wrong way that some *InsideEars* (Disneyland Paris approved fan media) clearly got preferential treatment and were allowed to skip the queues altogether to meet characters. It would have been better if Disney had organised a special event for them to meet the characters at another time, so they wouldn't take away time from paying guests. Who, due to the rubbish queuing system, were already unable to meet all the characters. So seeing people just skipping queues like that is very much unpleasant and not ok.

It seems that Disneyland Paris still haven't learnt enough from mistakes made organising the previous AP parties and keep on making the same huge mistakes. Which is unacceptable considering that tickets aren't cheap, and they are risking the safety of several guests, at times.
Things got even more complicated for disabled guests during this party and we did feel very bad for them.
The shows were nice but would have been a lot more better if everyone could enjoy them wherever they were standing on Central Plaza.
However, at the end of the day, I did have a "good, good, good time" celebrating the Boss' Birthday and would probably be up for it again, provided Disney does better organising the event.

Review and photography by Marie Huberty.



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Hideo Azuma
"Disappearance Diary"
"Shisso Nikki"

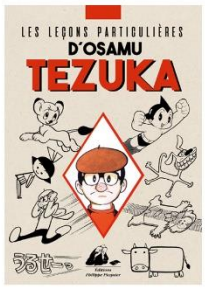
Disclaimer: while *Disappearance Diary* does not contain sexual content, *Hideo Azuma* is known as the father of the *lolicon* genre, and has published content that is NSFW. Please keep this in mind when considering if, when, and where to look up his work.

Known for his science fiction lolicon stories, Hideo Azuma was a popular mangaka back in the 70's and 80's. The stress of running several series at once while dealing with the darker parts of the manga industry became too much to bear. Azuma succumbed to alcoholism, and fled his responsibilities while roaming the streets. Azuma disappeared three times from the public eye. His first disappearance (1989) lead to a yearlong stint of homelessness. During his second (1992), he ran away from home, and picked up a job as a mechanic. His third (1998) is spent in a hospital as his family sends him to rehab. In 2005, Azuma decided to turn these experiences into an autobiographical manga.

Disappearance Diary is a slice-of-life story in its truest form. It covers heavy topics such as suicide, homelessness, addiction, and depression. Azuma does not shy away from telling us how low he's sunk during these periods of his life. He uses realistic anecdotes to illustrate them, such as digging up leftover food from trashcans, and having alcohol-induced anxiety attacks.

Despite these subjects, Disappearance Diary remains optimistic. It takes on a comedic character, albeit a dark one. The book's humour leaves you with a guilty smile. Azuma uses a simple, cartoony style to tell his story. He paints an unflattering portrait of himself in an attempt to lighten the mood and to amuse his readers, and he does it well.

Disappearance Diary's original publication was by *Yen Press*. It has been translated into English (*Fanfare*), French (*Kana*), Spanish (*Ponent Mon*), and Polish (*Hanami*). The story won several prizes, among which the *Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize*. A sequel titled *Depression Diary* (*Utsutsu Hideo Nikki*) followed in 2006. Azuma published a third book titled *The Ward of Alcoholics* (*Shisso Nikki* 2) in 2013.



Osamu Tezuka
"Les Leçons particulières d'Osamu Tezuka"
"Manga no kakikata"

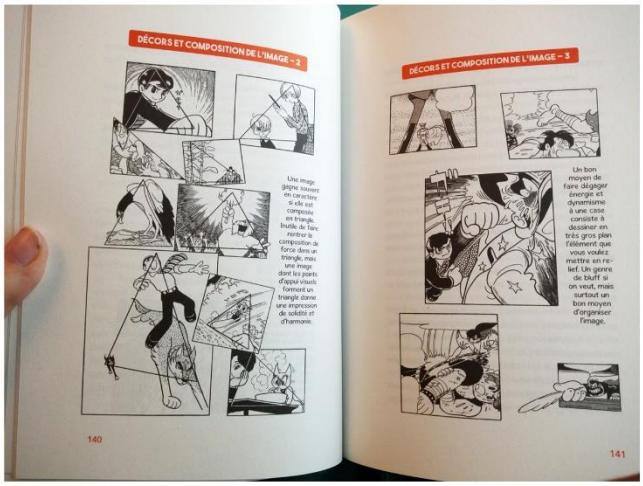
Ever wanted to learn how to draw your own manga? Why not take a private class by *Osamu Tezuka*, the godfather of manga himself?

Les Leçons particulières d'Osamu Tezuka is a non-fiction guidebook, rather than a comic. Back in 1977, Tezuka penned it down in an effort to motivate his fans to try out his craft. Instead of aiming for those who were already familiar with the industry, he hoped to reach the type of public that hadn't held a pencil since their school days. Therefore, he dedicated the book to people such as parents, teachers, and amateur fans. As Tezuka puts it: everyone has a story to tell.

Les Leçons particulières d'Osamu Tezuka offers hands-on art and storytelling techniques, and combines them with anecdotes from Tezuka's career. There are two types of readers who would enjoy this book. Those who legitimately want to learn how to draw and are starting from scratch, will find Tezuka's practical advice useful. Long-time fans who want to know more about Tezuka's art process and the industry he worked in, will be delighted by the nods Tezuka included to his own work.

Throughout this book, Tezuka references manga artists and industry practices that were common knowledge back in 1977, but aren't anymore today. To remedy this, translator Patrick Honnoré has added footnotes where necessary. Therefore, no prior knowledge is needed to enjoy this book.

The French edition of Les Leçons particulières d'Osamu Tezuka was published by *Éditions Philippe Picquier*. So far, the book hasn't been translated into other languages yet. As always with Tezuka: keep in mind the era in which it was written when reading his work. Despite being a big proponent of equality and peace, the age of Tezuka's oeuvre sometimes make for unfortunate quotes.



Natsuki Takaya
"Fruits Basket Another"

Introverted high school student *Sawa Mitoma* has self-esteem troubles. When one of her teachers scolds her for being late, a young man named *Mutsuki Soma* comes to her rescue. Sawa promises to repay Mutsuki's kindness. Mutsuki, who is the vice-president of the student council, takes advantage of this offer, and forces Sawa to become part of the student council. Her days of anonymity's comforts now over, Sawa has to learn how to deal with standing in the school's spotlight.

If you were an anime fan back in the 2000's, chances are you've either read or seen *Takaya*'s original *Fruits Basket* series. (If you haven't: *Hakusensha* has recently announced a remake of the original anime. Here's your chance to catch up!). Back in 2015, Takaya released a cute little sequel to her hit title: *Fruits Basket Another*. We revisit the same school through the eyes of a new character, and get to meet the children of the original protagonists. While the story is a little on the weak side, it offers a fun continuation of the first series. The art is similar to the original comic, albeit much more polished.

Did you enjoy the original Fruits Basket? Put on your nostalgia goggles, and give Fruits Basket Another a try. If you've never read the original manga, don't fret: Fruits Basket Another can be read as a standalone story. However, its narrative might be a bit too weak to keep your interest if you weren't already pre-invested in it.

Fruits Basket Another originally ran as a web series on the website of publisher *HanaLaLa*. It has been translated by *Yen Press* into English, and by *Éditions Delcourt/Tonkam* into French.

Reviews by Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen.
Imagery all official promo materials.

Castlevania
Season 2
anime
Available on Netflix

Castlevania returns with what is, for now because season 3 has been confirmed, the conclusion of the storyline started in season 1. We learn more of life in *Dracula*'s castle, encounter new characters and follow our intrepid heroes on their quest to stop the king of vampires from annihilating the human race.
Just like season 1, this is one of the biggest surprises when it comes to this particular genre, and absolutely worth the watch. The storyline is solid, the characters are very well fleshed out, all the right explanations are made and the ending will not leave you unaffected. If you like supernatural anime and for some reason you've not gotten around to seeing this, do it now. Chances are you will not be disappointed and left just as eager for season 3 as we are!

Hero-Mask
Season 1
anime
Available on Netflix

This anime, which takes place in a London where the police is fighting a strange shadowy organisation, has an atmosphere to it that strongly reminds of *V for Vendetta*, even though there's very little comparison between the two. It's not the kind of anime you can just put on and have a light watch though, as it's the kind of crime and suspense story that really requires you to keep your focus on the episode at hand. Without saying too much, it's definitely one of the better things we've seen appearing on *Netflix* within this particular genre, and we would say that it's comparable to *Killer B, the Beginning* in type of story and feel.

One Punch Man
Season 1 and 2
anime
Available on Netflix

Saitama has had it with all the monsters wrecking havoc, death and destruction upon his city. So he decides to go and train, and in the process becomes the strongest man alive: *Wan Pan Man*, or as the English translation of the title suggests: *One Punch Man*. The result is an anime that is mostly funny, with cool characters and storylines that are often poking fun at several genres: the superhero genre, magical girl anime and more.
You might think that a hero that strong will become boring, but nothing is less true, because the story of every single episode is just so well executed. Definitely a series to keep an eye on if you want something fun and light hearted to watch with a whole host of fun characters. Hopefully there will be a second season because this is the kind of entertaining anime we could stand to watch a lot more of.

Rurouni Kenshi
Season 1 - 3
anime
Available on Netflix

Rurouni Kenshin is an absolute classic when it comes to anime. Even though it's been around for over a decade, it has aged incredibly well, and has affirmed it's status of timeless classic. We're only talking about it in this issue because all three seasons, in original Japanese, have appeared on *Netflix*, and it's an absolute recommendation for those wanting to get into anime. If you like historical inspired, samurai stories at least. This is the kind of story that has inspired so many other stories, and when you watch this again, you'll realise just how good the live action adaptations are. Rurouni Kenshin is amazing, whether you watch the anime or the live action movies, it's well worth your time.

Tydying up with Marie Mondo
Season 1
series
Available on Netflix

Marie Kondo has become world famous with her methods for keeping a clean, harmoneous life, organising and decluttering. She's written a book that is an international best-seller and in this new Netflix series, she takes the teachings of here famed Konmari method to eight very different families with organisational needs of their own. This diversity is nice because it gives the viewer a better chance to pick up on things that are helpful for their own situation, should they feel like taking on a reorganisation of their own home. Plus it's neat to see her methods in action. For the fans of clean, organised homes.

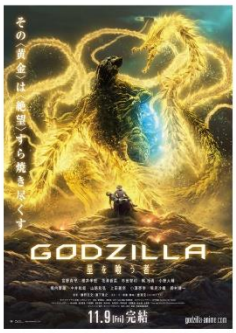
Temple
"horror" movie
Available on Netflix

emple, a collaboration between US and Japanese film studios is nothing new. Over the past few years, several horror movies have covered the topic of people with not nearly enough self-preservation and common sense exploring temples and other buildings. This is no different, but it is as far as this subgenre of horror goes, this one is very likely going to leave you wanting the time of your life back. That was how we felt at least. The special effects are mediocre. The storyline is only so-so at best. Like many modern horror movies, this is just another so called scary movie where they took several elements of more famous horror movies and local folklore, tossed them together in a blender and called it an original movie. The acting is nothing award worthy, and that's being kind. All of this combined makes Temple, also known as The Temple, a movie that is not worth your while unless you are utterly addicted to bad horror. And trust me, even then there are a great many alternatives out there that are going to be much better viewing options. I've seen better things come out of the Japanese gore cinema genre, which is known for it's ridiculous cheesecake style horror than this.

Reviewers for this edition: Hilde Heyvaert, Ish and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
All imagery official promo material.

Godzilla
part 2, City on Edge
anime
Available on Netflix

The middle part in the *Godzilla* anime trilogy and sequel to *Planet of Monsters*, provides some answers, as well as builds on the first instalment. Whereas Planet of Monsters already introduced a very new take on the *Gojira* mythos, but lacked the general feel of that feeling associated with classic Godzilla, especially old school Japanese Godzilla, *City on Edge* is bringing us a little closer to the *kaiju* universe that we know and love. We get a glimpse of Earth many years into Godzilla rule, and a better explanation of some of the tech humanity had been tinkering with prior to the events that unfolded in part 1 (yeah we're trying hard to stick to spoiler free reviews). It's nice to see a new take on *Mothra*. Her part in parts two and three, even though she isn't physically around all that much, is very well reimagined, and is and an excellent contribution to the plot in general. It's also one of the very few parts of the entire thing that makes sense. But just like with part one, even though we see some other monsters, the focus still rests on The King of Monsters: Godzilla, when it comes to kaiju.



Godzilla
part 3, The Planet Eater
anime
Available on Netflix

In the final instalment of the *Planet of Monsters* anime trilogy, the plan of the *Exif* unfolds fully, and *Godzilla* might end up switching sides from villain to hero. Or does he really? Something that needs to be said for parts three, and to lesser extend three of these anime is that you need to be pretty darn familiar with the Godzilla universe to really understand what's going on. And more familiar than having seen some of the western (relatively) recent movie releases. Only people that are familiar with *King Gidorah* and *Mothra* as they were originally designed will really understand what's going on here. Mothra fans rejoice, as she does make an appearance, albeit a very small one. Gidorah fans, well, I hope you like the new take on your favourite monster, because it's something else, that's for sure. All in all, The Planet Eater is a conclusion, albeit not necessarily a satisfactory one. Humanity has, sort of reached their goal, more or less. The new take on the concept of Gojira was different, that's for sure, but whether or not it's successful depends on your tolerance for weird stuff.

J-MUSIC CORNER

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert and Marie Huberty.

G.L.A.M.S
Ever-changing
EP
Genre: Jrock

G.L.A.M.S' latest EP, which was paired with their EU tour last year, sounds like the soundtrack, sometimes literally, as some of the songs sound like they're movie music, to the band's continuous evolution. Making *Ever-changing* an appropriate title. You can still hear that this is unmistakingly G.L.A.M.S in the vocals and composition, but it's a little different. Still building on where they left off with their previous work *A Queen of the Night*. If you like good, solid and varied Jrock, this is something you might like. The big downside is that this is just 5 tracks, which is rather too short to really get to know the band's music if you don't already, as they are really mixing up genres in that limited amount of songs.
BCM favourite track: Man in Underworld

the GazettE
Ninth
Full album
Genre: Jmetal

Last June, *the GazettE* released, as the title suggests, their ninth studio album. The preview given with *FALLING* made most fans think that this album would have a dark and heavy style similar to the *Project: Dark Age* release but that was not exactly the case. In my opinion, *NINTH* is a catalogue of everything the band can do, which is more or less confirmed with the intro 99.999. It mixes many different parts from their previous releases and is described as 2002-2018. Covering the band's starting year and NINTH release year. Songs such as *THE MORTAL*, *BABYLON'S TABOO* and *ABHOR GOD* have both a rough musical atmosphere and lyrics which is following the *Dogma* era. A fiery J-rock style piece; *虚蝉* (Utsusemi) and a very nice ballad, *その声は脆く* (Sono Koe ha Moroku) are also introduced midway in the album which calm things a little down before going back to some more heavy songs that have definitely been crafted with live performances in mind. Other pieces bring more vintage Gazetto-like styles such as *GUSH* or the awesome ending track *UNFINISHED*, which seems to be a love hymn to their fans and the support they provide.
In conclusion, long-time fans will definitely recognize different era styles and first timers might find NINTH more accessible than other releases due to its diversity. Some might say that NINTH lacks some risk-taking but since all of these styles fit the band, who perfectly nail them with every single song, it should not be ignored.
BCM's favorite tracks: FALLING / *その声は脆く* / BABYLON'S TABOO / UNFINISHED (because choosing just one was far too difficult!)

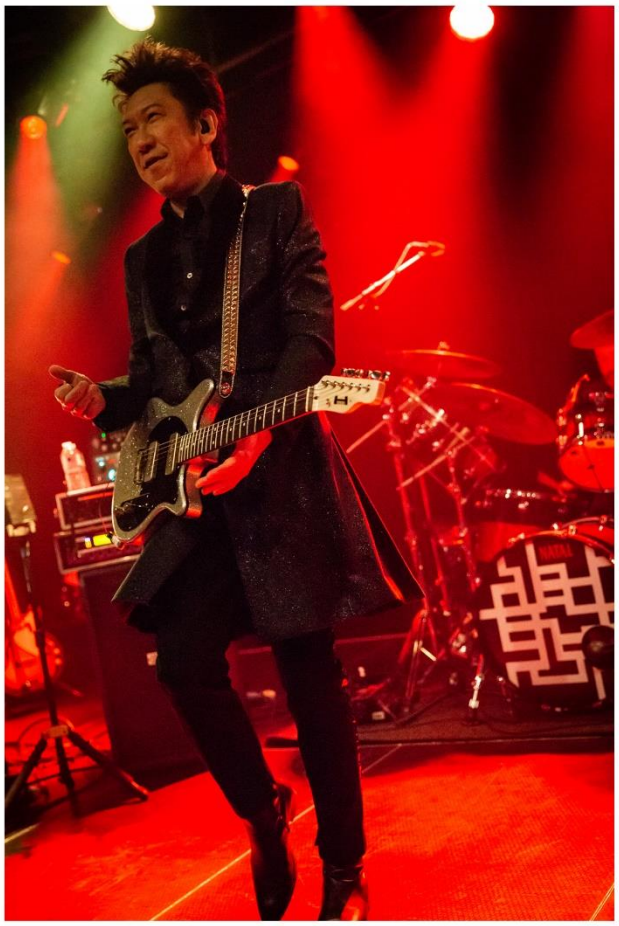
HOTEI
AB Club, Brussels, Belgium
Sunday, October 7 2018

Legendary guitarist *Tomoyasu Hotei* returned to Belgium for the opening live of his European concert tour. This time at a sold out *AB Club* in the heart of Brussels.

Seeing him perform left it to absolutely no more questions as to why the AB Club sold out, as he took over the stage and played a variety of songs. From crowd favourites to new material. Because he was touring Europe, he mainly addressed the crowd in English (his English is really good, by the way), but he also did in Japanese, due to the large amount of Japanese fans in the crowd (I would say it was about 50-50). He was engaging, funny and interactive with his audience, both talking to them and performing.
Which was absolutely amazing, especially for an artist of that calibre. You could see that he and his band enjoyed performing as much as the crowd loved watching them, and the atmosphere was superb.

He also really listened to the audience, because when they came back out for the encore, he asked what song they should play, someone shouted *Bambina*. Another person seconded that and Bambina is what they played!
So that was ace.

If you have the opportunity to see HOTEI in concert, grab it with both hands, order a ticket and go. Even if you're on your own, you're very likely to find friendly people to hang out with at the live so you won't be on your own for long. And you'll be able to see an amazing gig. What more can you want if you're a fan of Japanese rock music right?!



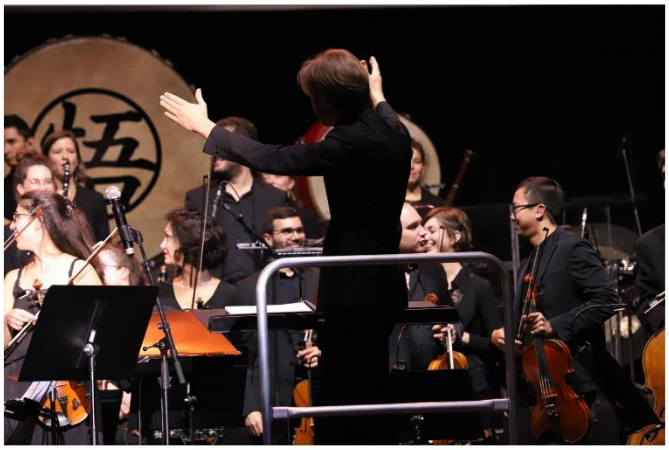
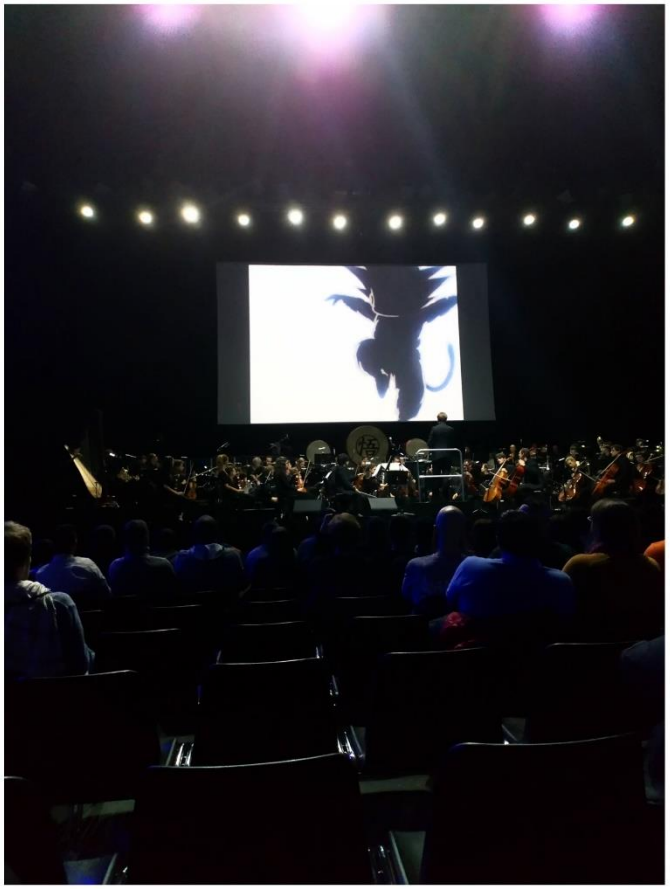
Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by HOTEI's own photographer, provided by his EU management.

Dragon Ball Symphonic Adventure
Brussels Expo, Palais 12, Brussels, Belgium
Tuesday, October 30 2018

Everyone knows *Dragon Ball*. Whether or not you're into Japanese culture, manga or anime, it's an inescapable phenomenon that has been around for over 20 years in Europe. If someone asks what anime is, and you reply that Dragon Ball is an example, the chance that they know what you're talking about it is much bigger than them having no clue what so ever.

Thus, it came to no surprise that the music of Dragon Ball and *Dragon Ball Z* was chosen for an international tour throughout Europe with live performance by both an orchestra and *Hiroki Takahashi*. The singer of the original Dragon Ball theme songs travelled along with the event to perform with the orchestra, and his presence was clearly something the fans enjoyed a lot.

Even if you weren't a Dragon Ball fan, or hadn't seen all the episodes of the anime, it was just a really fun event. People were really into it, cheering and singing along or booing villains. You might think this is super disrespectful towards the musicians, but the organisation had clearly stated before the concert began that it was absolutely ok to do so this time. And people were absolutely there for it. There was a really good all round atmosphere. The orchestra version of the songs were amusing, it was fun, and for many nostalgic, to see fragments of the anime series accompanying the soundtrack. Plus, it was really cool to see snippets from the very start of Dragon Ball to the very end of Dragon Ball Z.

It came to absolutely no surprise that the house nearly came down in excitement when it was announced that the next edition of Symphonic Adventure would cover Saint Seiya in 2020. And when Hiroki Takahashi asked people to approach the stage to join him into one last rendering of *Makafushigi Adventure!*, we're pretty sure at least half of the venue was happy to oblige the request.



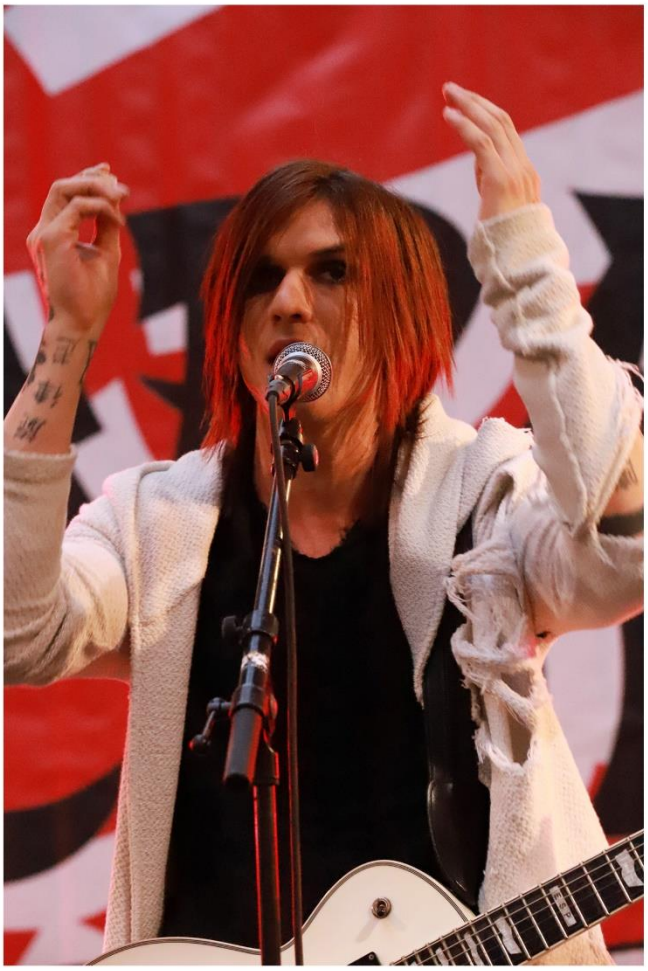
Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

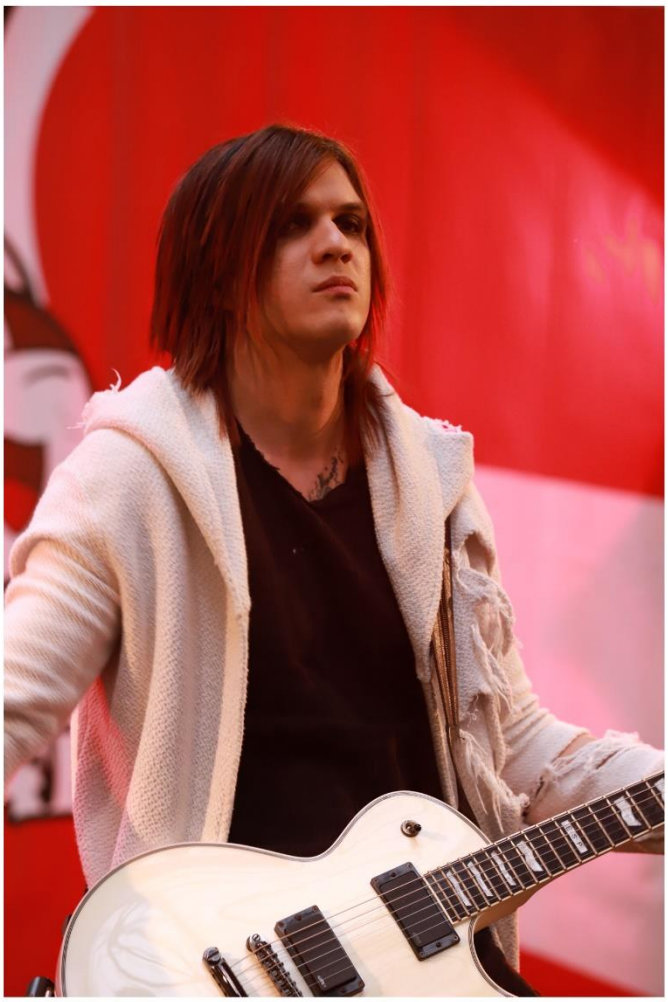
Lightning
Japan Con, Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium
Sunday, November 4 2018

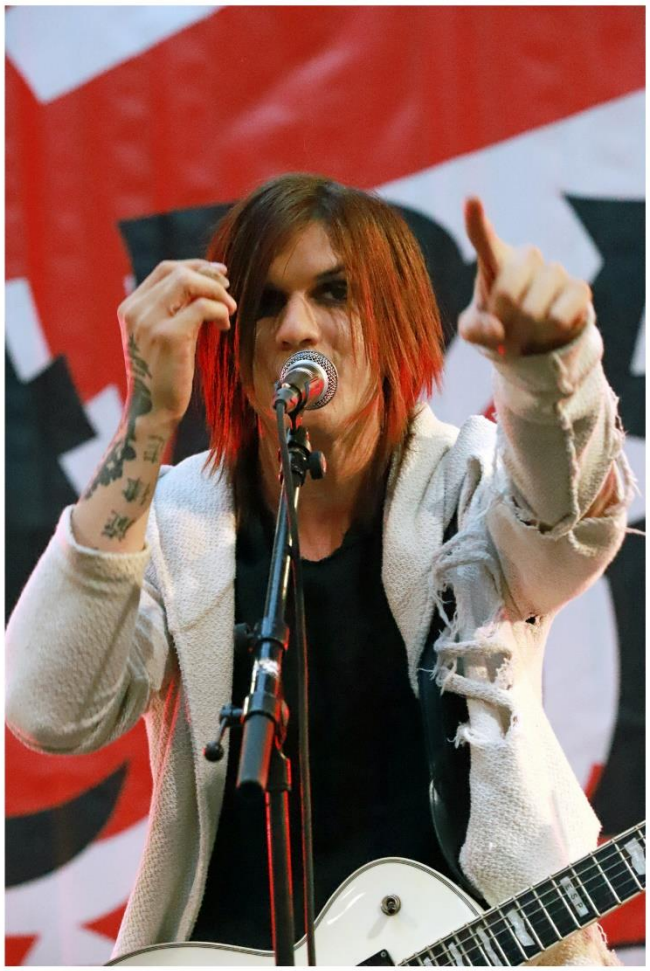
French singer songwriter *Lightning* specialises in Jrock. And whilst he is relatively unknown in Belgium, he was rapidly creating a fan base for himself with his performances and accessibility at Japan Con.
We didn't go on the Saturday, but on the Sunday there were clearly several people with a combi ticket that were absolutely into his music. Whilst the crowds at the stage might have looked a little limited, there were many people enjoying the concert from a little further off, sitting down on the picnic benches with full view of the stage. Putting them there was definitely a great move by the organisation, because it allowed people with limited mobility to enjoy everything easily, and it was just added comfort for those that preferred sitting to standing.
So taking that into consideration, there was actually quite the crowd for an artist making his debut at Japan Con.

Lightning was bringing good, solid Jrock. He has an excellent singing voice, his songs are solid he was so interactive with the crowd and clearly enjoyed being on stage. Even though most people had left after the cosplay competition and he had the unforgiving graveyard slot, he made the absolute best of it. And the response was fair, because his music is still better than most "main stream" Jrock that you hear coming from Japan these days.

This makes Lighting an artist to look out for if you're into that particular style of rock music, because him being French at least gives you a fairly decent chance to see him live some time close(ish) to home. The same can't be said from most Japanese artists.







Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.

G.L.A.M.S
Ever Changing tour
Bobble Café, Lomme, France
Wednesday, November 21 2018

G.L.A.M.S was plagued by technical issues at Bobble Café: the light was impossible and the sound was horrible. For the first half of the concert, Mikaru had to try to shout over the drums, which were so loud you couldn't properly hear either bass or guitar, making his voica a lot more shrill than it is. The band, however, tried their very best t make it work, which is definitely a testament to their professional attitudes. Luckily, by the second half, the sound was more or less fixed, to the point where it was still off but at least reached the kind of decibels that weren't screaming "instant case of hearing damage". None of this is, of course, the fault of the band. It's entirely on the venue (it's a lovely venue normally, aside from the stage light, but this time... not so much).

Complaints about technical issues aside, G.L.A.M.S was as energetic as always. Mixing up new songs with crowd favourites and the majority of the crowd was happy to ignore the problems with the sound in favour of just enjoying the live thanks to frontman Mikaru's showmanship.

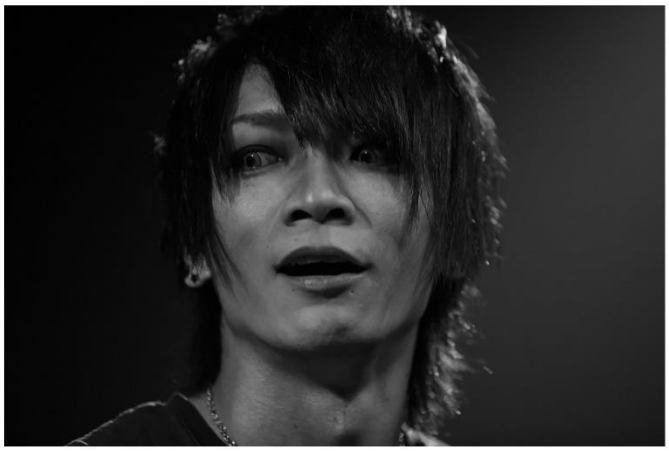
If the live did feel a little off, it would be unfair to hold it against the band, who are very entertaining and pretty darn good live. They just didn't have the venue's equipment on their side this time. Which is a shame, but these things sadly do happen from time to time.

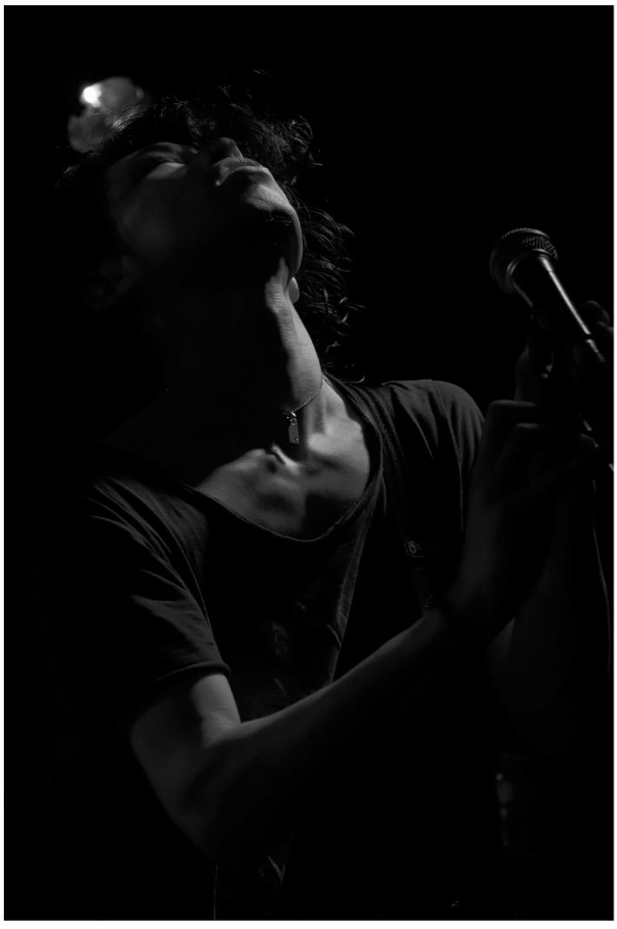
Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.

G.L.A.M.S
Ever Changing tour
Le Garage Creative Music, Liège, Belgium
Sunday, November 25 2018

Even though it was a Sunday evening, Le Garage was packed for it's doing with fans of G.L.A.M.S, eager to see the band perform. And the band did not disappoint in the slightest. They were energetic and giving it their all from the first song to the last, once again performing a mix of their older work, new songs from the Ever Changing EP, as well as crowd favourites such as Rainy Highway and Freak Show.
The latter especially got pretty much the entire venue danging and jumping along.

The gig at Le Garage was G.L.A.M.S at their best, which, on the last day of performing 5 days straight in 3 different countries, that's quite the feat. If you love hard rock, see these guys live next time they're on tour. If the venue isn't full of technical issues, they will not disappoint!





Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

Tomoyasu Hotei started his most recent European tour with a concert at the *AB Club* in the heart of Brussels.
We were lucky enough to sit down with him before the show to catch up on his musical plans for the future and a conversation about dogs.

It's tour kick-off day.
Yay!
What makes you most excited about being on tour, aside from performing?
Sadly I don't have a lot of spare time this tour. I'm still pretty unknown in the EU, so the schedule is very tight. Which is completely different then when I tour in Japan. But when I get the chance, I love to sight see. I had the chance to explore Brussels for a bit yesterday *smiles*. It makes me happy to have been able to see a little corner of Belgium *smiles*.

You've had an exhibit of your live costumes in Japan earlier this year. Belgium is a country famous for its fashion and fashion schools. Who is your favourite Belgian fashion designer?
Definitely *Dries Van Noten*, for his aesthetic and design. I love the special textures he uses. I really like his work, so does my wife.

During your career you've toured and worked with many great artists. Can you name a Belgian artist you would still like to work with some day?
I lived in Japan up to six years ago and there it's mostly "Japan versus the rest of the world". It's almost like a different planet. It makes it hard to be familiar of who's from where in the world. And I now live in London, I'm mostly familiar with British artists. But I am finding out more and more about local artists whenever I'm on tour. I'm very open-minded when it comes to collaborations, they don't have to be with someone famous, it just has to click. But if I'm to name a Belgian band, even I don't know many of them, I would have to say *Soulwax*. I love their last album, its amazing.

You have a very graphic design on your guitar, drum kit but also the tour merch. Can you tell us a little more about how you came up with that design in particular?
Laughs when I was 18 years old, I only owned one very cheap black guitar, because I didn't have a lot of money at all. I used to paint it myself with all sorts of different designs. One night I was quite drunk and decided to repaint it. In a one draw calligraphy style. I'm not sure whether it was thanks to the booze or just a moment of inspiration *laughs* but that's how that design came to be. It's pretty iconic nowadays. Sometimes I feel like I make more from this design, which is printed on a lot of things: from albums to my guitar to socks and umbrellas, than I do from album sales *laughs*. I feel fortunate that I have something else other than music *smiles*. Because the pattern really represents me, my sound and my music.

You are described on Wikipedia as a musician, singer-songwriter, composer and actor. But how would you describe yourself?
When it comes to the foundation of who I am, I am a guitarist. So I would describe myself as such. Thanks to me being a guitarist, I have had many other creative opportunities. None of which I would have had if I wasn't a guitarist. It's not just given me the opportunity to be creative, but to also meet other creatives and influencers. So in my core, a guitarist is what I am *smiles*. To give you an example, because I played the guitar, I got to act in a Japanese movie for which I wrote the music. *Tarantino* heard *Battle Without Honor or Humanity* because that movie, and that's how it ended up in *Kill Bill*. If I hadn't risen to the challenge to act, I wouldn't have had the opportunity. So I always take the challenge because I never know where it leads me.

You've been living in the UK for several years now. How do you feel that living in Europe has influenced your work and you personally?
I've come to realise how fast paced things are in Japan. For example, a record is made in just a year. Making it, the release, the tour, and then the next year it's the same thing. There are so many deadlines there, which is completely opposite than in Europe. So now I get to approach things from a different angle, at a more sedate pace. I feel that it's matured my music a lot. I really have the chance to take the time for it, revise it, listen to it. I've never had the opportunity to do that in Japan. Of course, it goes both ways, because I've also learned to appreciate the great things about Japan. But if I had to describe my state of mind in one word, it would be matured.

You've just released your new single *202X* last month. Does that mean we have a new full album to look forward to, also?
I plan to make one, but nothing is set in stone yet. Of course, in Japan, they are very restless. They've already set the deadline, the release date and the tour *laughs*. They keep asking where the album is. I'm in the demo stage right now, recording lots of them. It'll be a bit different. Different than 202X certainly. I hope it's something the European audiences will enjoy.

How did things end up with the lost black Labrador you posted about on Instagram?
Laughs her name is Lily *smiles*. I found her during an evening walk with my dog after coming back from the studio late at night. It was a bit of a lucky happenstance, because normally walk my dog in the morning, but at that time I felt like taking her out for an evening walk. And we came across Lily. She was all on her own and had clearly gotten lost. I didn't want to leave her out on her own because it was very dark and very dangerous for her. So I took her home, called the local vet, which was luckily open 24 hours, because she was wearing a collar. I also took her picture and made a video to help find her owner. The next morning I got a call that her owner was found, who turns out to be my next door neighbour, who happens to be a backing vocalist for *Queen*. A friend of mine is in Queen, so I definitely had a small world moment *laughs*. I gotta admit, I was a little sad they found her owner because she's such a sweet dog I had already grown attached to her *laughs*. But I'm glad her story had a happy ending *smiles*.

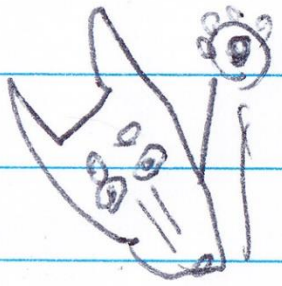
Your dog Lurie is often featured on your Instagram, can you tell us a funny story about her?
My British friends call her ninja dog, because as a Dobermann she has that sharp look to her, a little like a ninja. She's very sweet and calm. Not at all aggressive. People often think Dobermann are aggressive dogs, but they couldn't be further from the truth in the case of Lurie. One day, we were out on a walk, and I had let her off her leash to let her play and run. All of the sudden I lost her. I was panicking and shouting her name for at least five minutes and then it turned out she was right next to me all the time, super silent and quiet. Like a ninja. So ninja dog is definitely apt *laughs*!
Editor: at the time of this publication, Lurie has sadly passed away. We would like to offer our condolences to her family and friends.

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Translation by Tomoko Moore.
Photo provided by HOTEI's EU management team.

ありがとう!!!

愛してる!!!

Tomoyasu Hotei



I hope to see you again somewhere in the WORLD!!!

Win a cheki/Instax signed by HOTEI !

When we interviewed HOTEI at the first concert of his European tour back in October, he was kind enough to sign this instax photo for us.
So dear readers, that is what one of you can win: an Instax Square signed by Tomoyasu HOTEI.

All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win this particular (signed) cheki.
You can write something, draw something, make a Photoshop collage: anything goes as long as you can send it by email and it is safe for work! So no porn, no smutty fanfic, keep it decent and it's a valid entry ;).

Submissions can be emailed to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
The last date for submissions is April 21st, so you still have plenty of time to come up with something!
The winner will be personally notified after the deadline* and asked for their home address so we can mail** out their cheki. Don't worry, your address will NOT be shared or sold to third parties, so your privacy is definitely assured. We don't even store addresses. So you can count on us being GDPR compliant.

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They can also take quite a while to deliver, so please be patient. Especially if you live outside of Belgium. Shipping to locations outside of Europe may take anything from a handful of days, to a couple of weeks and even a few months.

Mikaru was back on tour in Europe for the second time in 2018. This time with **G.L.A.M.S** and a new EP, **Ever Changing**. We caught up with him, before the show in Liège, Belgium.

What's the biggest change you have ever made?
Thinks the choice I made to live this way all those years ago. When I was 18 years old, I was in college and thought I was going to be a cop. Music was just something I did for fun. But the more I did it, the more I realised that it was more a way of life for me. And suddenly it clicked. I quit college. I had a huge row with my parents about it, but that didn't stop me *laughs*. Now, my parents are my number one fans *smiles*.

If you could shapeshift, what would you want to change into?
I'm not sure this qualifies as shape shifting, but if I got to have superpowers, I would want to be able to become invisible and have an intangibility power much like that of *Kitty Pride* from the *X-Men*. So I can play pranks on people like sneakily pour hot sauce on their food without them noticing because they can't see me, or touch me but I would still be able to handle the bottle *laughs*.

You're a vampire in the photography for your new album and we know you have a thing about vampires. What makes them so fascinating to you?
I have seen a lot of vampire movies in my life. Vampires are nearly all lonely because they are immortal. Well, immortal 'till they get killed some way or another at least. But what they have in mind is that they are all beautiful or handsome and cool. That aesthetic is really appealing to me. Ever since I was a kid in junior high and I made vampire teeth *chuckles*. I like the entire Gothic horror element of castles and bats *smiles*.
Which is your favourite vampire story?
Interview with the Vampire, for sure.
The movie or the book?
The movie! I love the way they filmed that.

Before, you were prince Mikaru. Now, you are dark pince Mikaru. What brought on the change? What's made you gone dark?
Maybe prince Mikaru was a fake all along and the real me was hiding behind a mask *grins*. And now the time has come to take off the mask *smiles*.
What brought that on though?
The new album, and how varied it is. Some songs are a little more pop, and one is very Jazz, but my soul is still dark. Nothing has changed there *smiles*.

You said you do not want to get pinned to one specific concept and like to change. So what's next?
My image is constantly changing. I definitely want to make a beautiful music video. Almost like a short movie. More like a nature video of some sorts. Just me standing in the forest and the music playing. To me that would be a super cool MV.

You've been in the EU twice this year. What do you do different when you tour solo versus when you tour with GLAMS?
Both are completely different. Don't get me wrong, I love touring either way, but in my soul, I'm a band man. The sound of the drums makes my heart burn *smiles*. The band is my family, they're my fighters. These guys and I go way back *smiles*.

You have said before you are interested in fashion design. Can you name all of the *Antwerp 6*, Belgium's most famous fashion designers?
Oh no, I can't! You do it!
***Dirk Van Saene*, *Dirk Bikkenbergs*, *Dries Van Noten*, *Marina Ye*, *Ann Demeulemeester* and *Walter Van Beirendonk*.**
I think I may have heard some of the names before, but I'm not familiar with their designs I must admit. I do like fashion mind, especially classic *Dior Homme*. That's my favourite style of menswear. I can't afford it, but if I could, that would 100% be the style I'm going for. I would love to be able to wear that in my nature MV! Doesn't have to be Dior, just that style! I would love to work with a designer who can do that for me!

You're based out of the French part of Belgium when you tour Europe. How good is your French by now?
I can talk about food! I can go to the supermarket myself. I love going to *Delhaize*. They have HUGE steaks, and they are SO cheap. I can get a 500 or 600 gram steak and it costs hardly anything. Well, not compared to the prices I would pay for that kind of steak in a supermarket in Japan at least. Which is why I eat steak when here as much as I can *laughs*.
You do have an incredible steak eating habit. Is this something you do only in Europe?
Pretty much, because in Japan it's so expensive! That's why I really profit of the opportunity when I'm in the EU. Steak is definitely my favourite food. I do want to try more basic French dishes, but there's always steak. Steak in mushroom sauce, especially, is my favourite. Yum, yum *grins*!

If you could own your own old church or castle. What would you do with it?
That's difficult! I do have a lot of fond memories visiting churches on tour. Especially my visits to the *Notre-Dame* in Paris, the *Dom* of Cologne and the *Sagrada Familia* in Barcelona are special memories to me. One day I want to hold a gig in a church for sure. So if I owned one, or a castle, I would turn them into a concert venue. As well as an art gallery. I would definitely take one wall for myself and paint a mural *smiles*.

It's nearly the new year, what are your plans for 2019?
I will come back to the EU, and look for my vampire queen. So I feel all the pretty girls should dress up like vampires. I especially like the style of *Lucy Westenra* in *Francis Ford Coppola*'s *Dracula* *grins*.

A popular meme on this tour is comparing *Syu* to *Animal* of the *Muppet Show*. What do you think?
Watches a clip of Animal drumming on the phone and starts laughing Oh my God! This is perfect! This really is like Syu! Look at his head bursting into flames! I can see this happening to Syu one day! I want an Animal! No, seriously, if anyone feels the need to get me something for Christmas, or just because they feel like getting me something, please get me an Animal! Publish my request please!
You'll end up with a lot of them this way.
I don't care! I want many Animal! Please buy me an Animal dear readers and fans *laughs*.
Editor: Mikaru and I showed the video to Syu, who just nodded solemnly and said "I know, it's me".

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert

Small
Mikaru
Eat
You!!

Win a cheki/Instax signed by G.L.A.M.S !

When we interviewed Mikaru in Liège during the G.L.A.M.S Ever Changing tour, the entire band was kind enough to pose for, and sign, this cheki for us.
So dear readers, that is what one of you can win: an Instax Square signed by all four members of G.L.A.M.S.

All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win this particular (signed) cheki.
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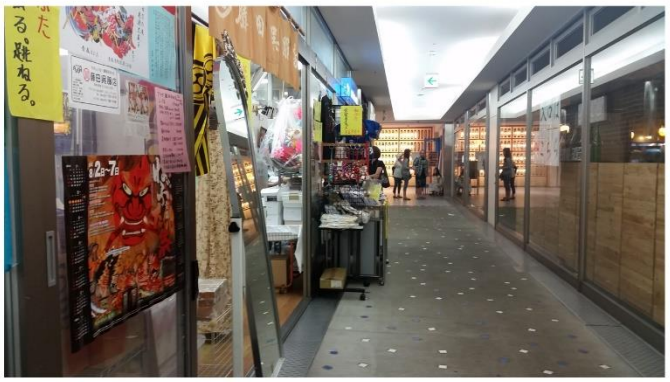

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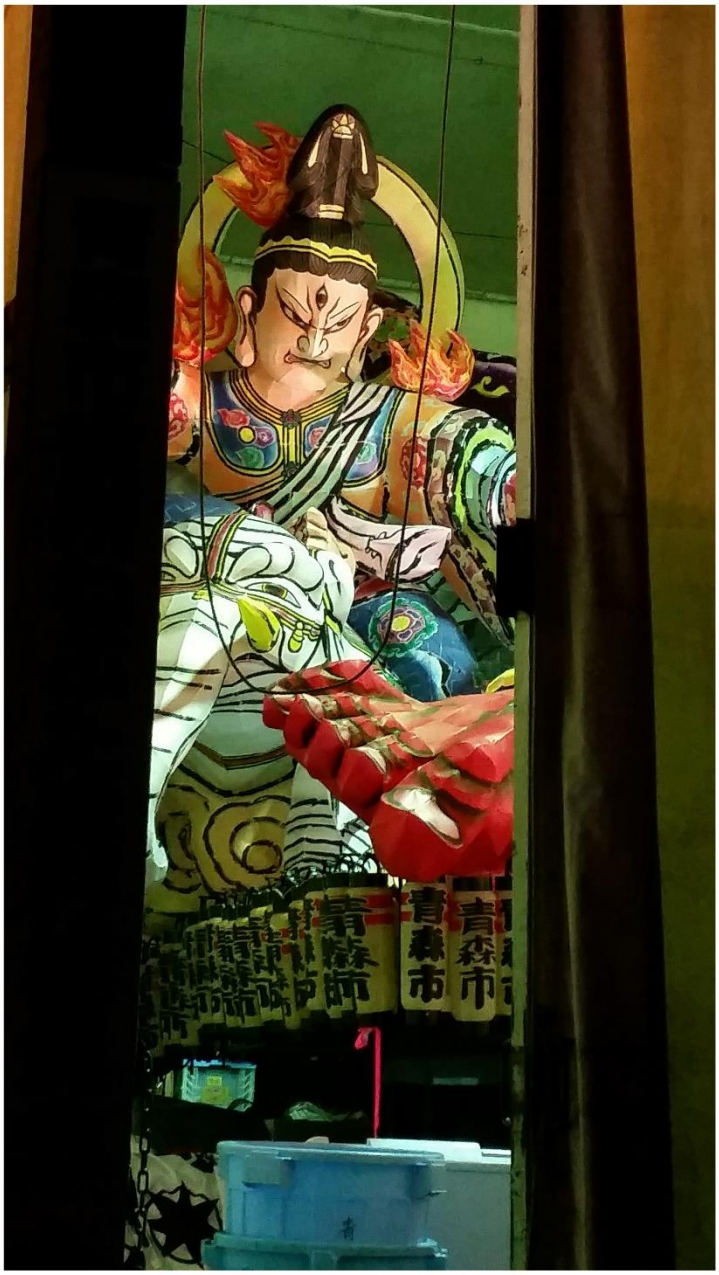
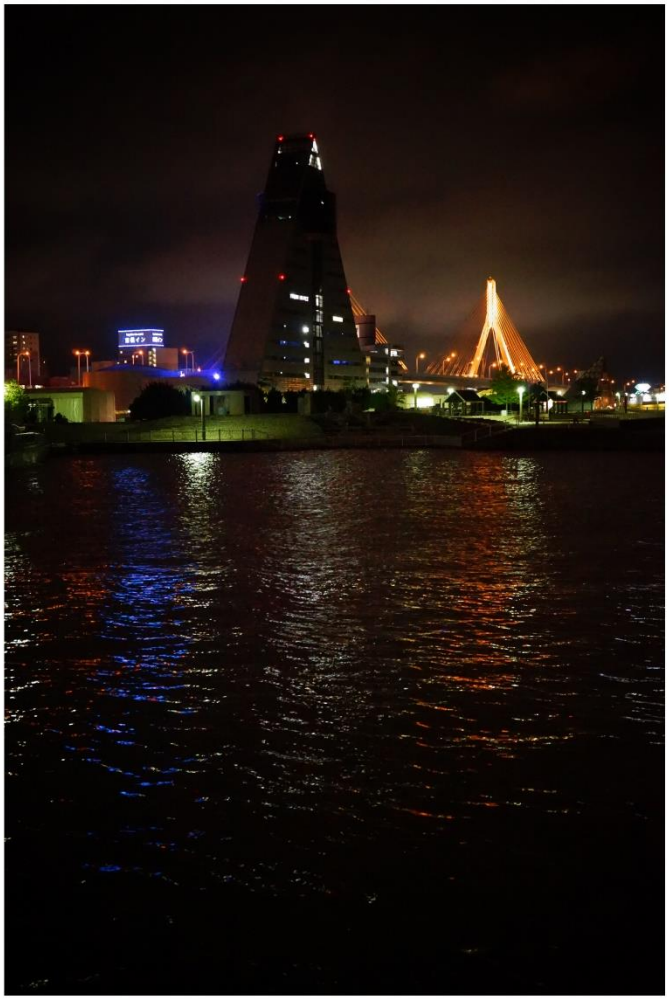
樽生


青森市
青森市



郷土料理・地酒
ジャッパ汁鍋
郷土料理

郷土料理

2F

Preparations for the Nebuta Matsuri

Unlike the Neputa Matsuri we spoke about in last edition, the Nebuta matsuri is a competition. It takes place early August each year, and is considered on of the three largest festivals in the Tōhoku region.

KIRIN
青森菱友会
祝

ねぶた愛
祭り

ENEOS
このねぶたは
私達の出世作です

小林製薬
青森市PTA連合会
ハッピー・ドラッ
1

NTT グループ

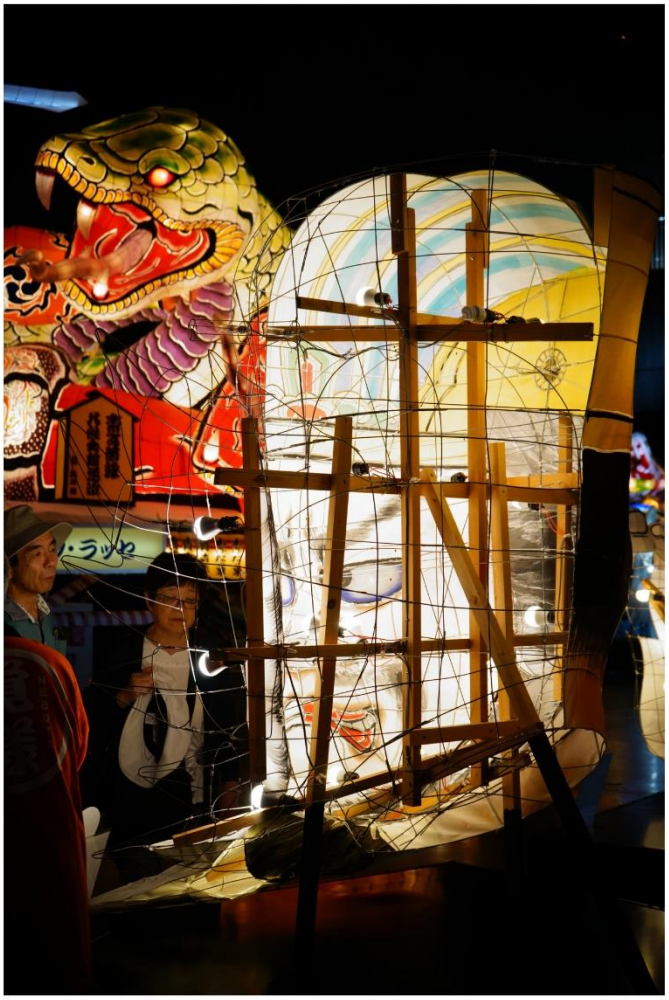
ねぶた愛隊 6

10 県庁ねぶた実行委

11

12 ITACHI

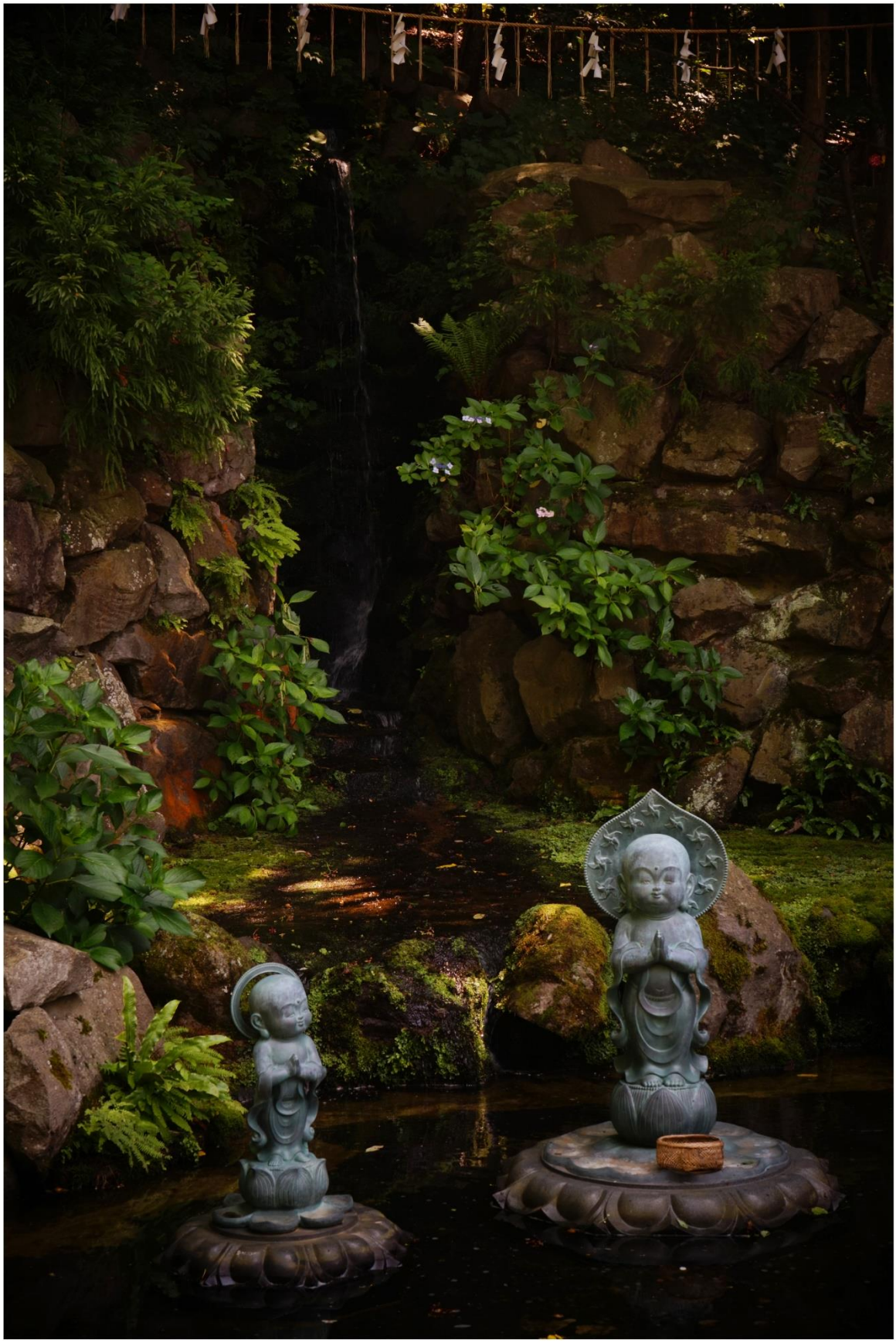
Nebuta museum



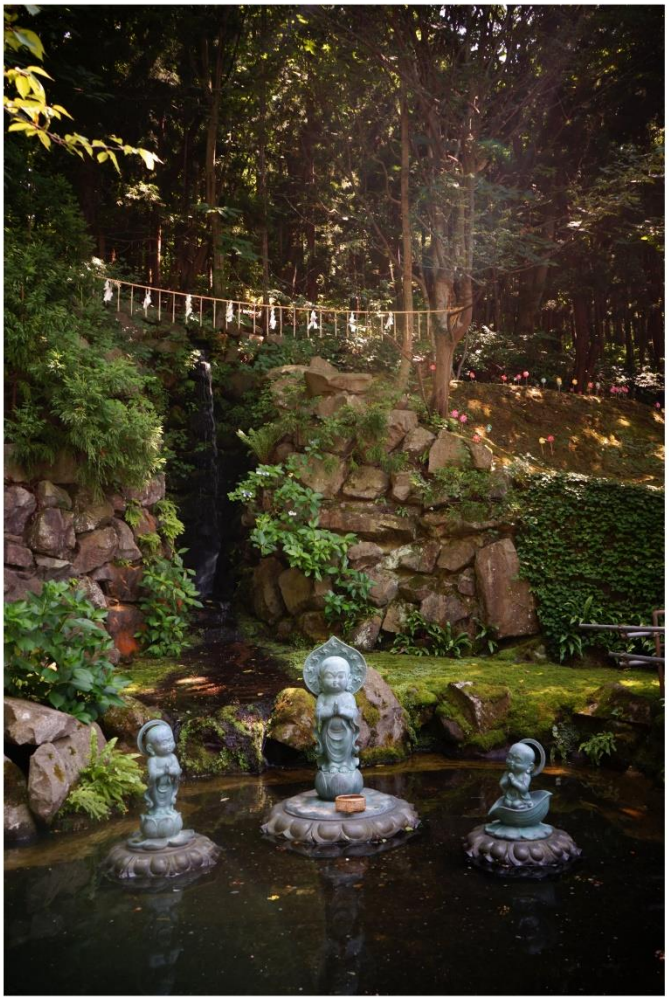
ねぶたの家 ワ・ラッセ

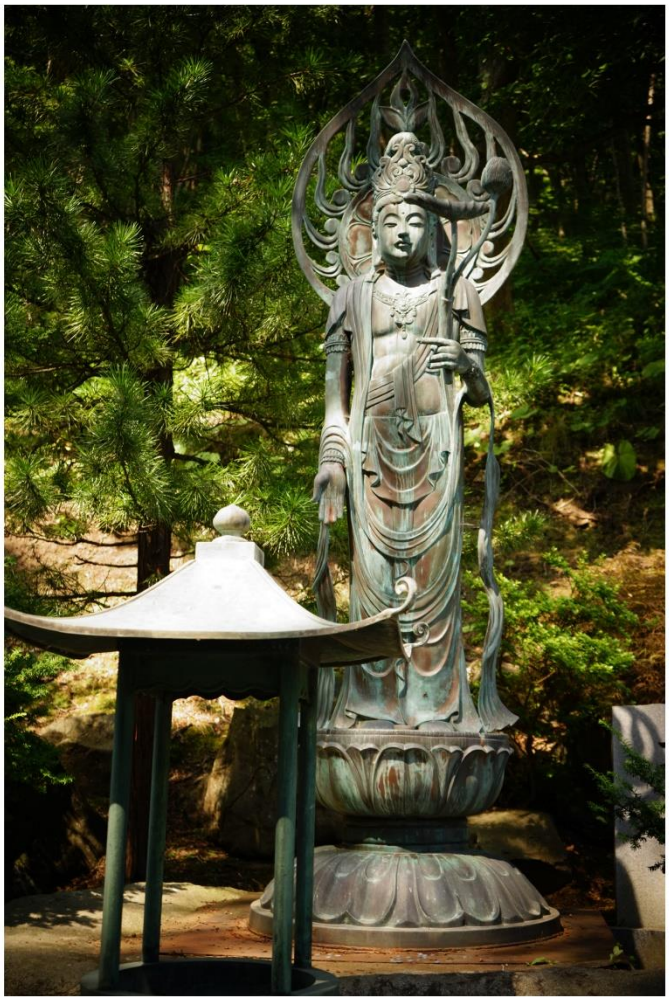
青森市
ねぶたの家
ワラッセ

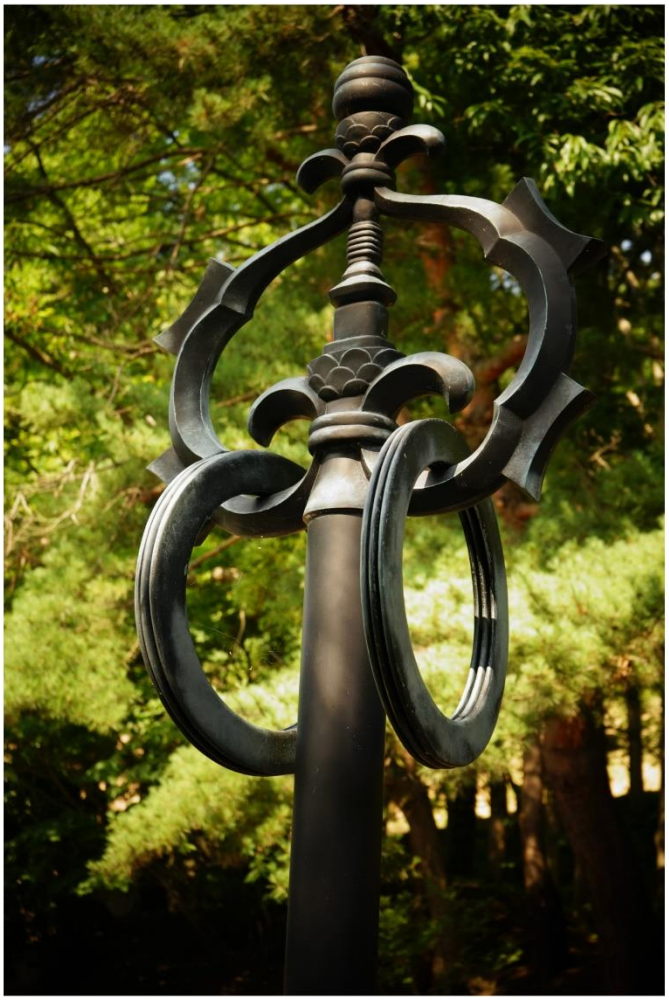
子もりうた



Seiryuji Temple







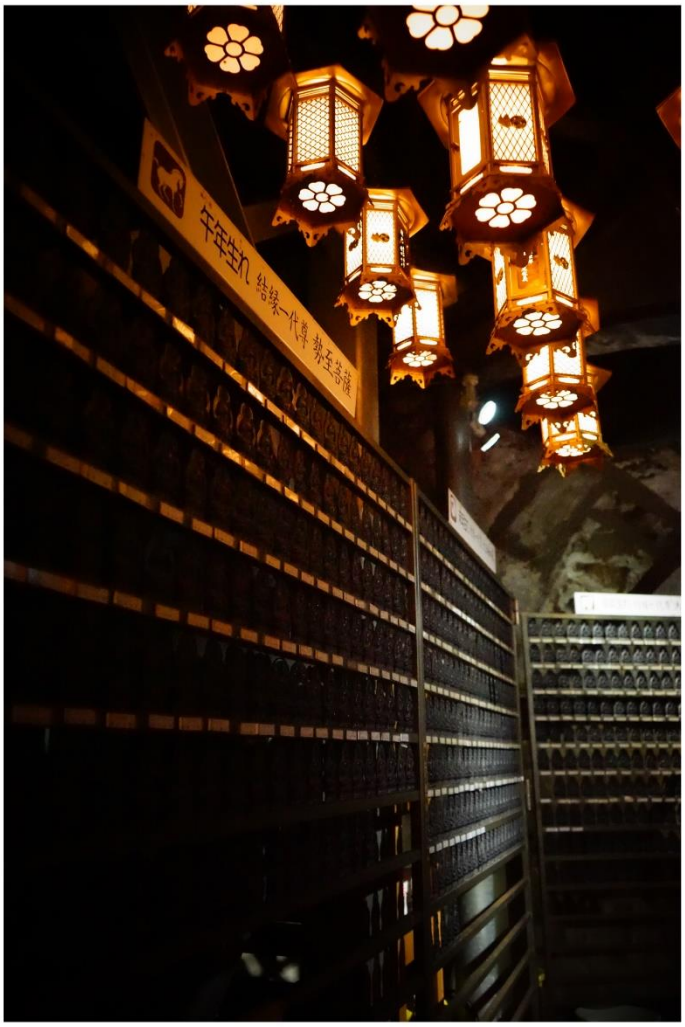
The Big Buddha of The Seiryuji Temple

***Rokudou Rinne*: Six paths to rebirth**
Every living thing is born and dies. It is said that after one dies, their spirit is reborn as a different life form. This is called reincarnation.
The places where a spirit can be reborn are the realms of heavenly beings, human beings, *asuras* (Pandemonium), animals, hungry spirits and hell, and these are the six paths.
Spirits are reborn every seven days in one of the realms and on the forthy-ninth day, they are assigned to the real they will go to.
This is why the *Forthy-ninth Day Ritual* is very important.

般若波羅密

布施波羅密

仏恩報謝
前田磯友
大月宗明
三塚博
高橋電気工業(株)
高樋慶一郎
木村盛



淨財

普賢

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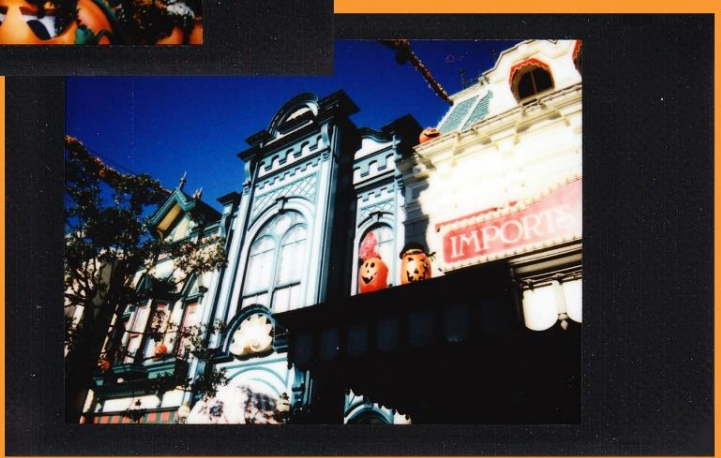
CHECK THAT CHEKI

Do you want your photo to be part of next edition's Check that Checki page? Just send it in!
All types of Fujifilm Instax cameras are welcome!
Cameras used this time: Fujifilm Instax mini 90 NEO CLASSIC and Instax Square SQ10.
Film: mini airmail, Hello Kitty, macaron and Square classic.

Check that cheki

Disneyland Paris edition

Check that Cheki is brought to you in collaboration with Instax Belgium, who were kind enough to sponsor us with Instax film!
Instax mini 90 NEO CLASSIC with black frame and classic Instax mini film.
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



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EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

ongoing...

Expo Van Gogh,
the Immersive Experience
Until: March 10 2019
Venue: Stock Exchange
City: Brussels
Country: Belgium
www.expovangogh.be

Legends of the Force
Until: March 17
Venue: Walt Disney Studios Park,
Disneyland Paris
City: Marne-la-Vallée
Country: France
seasons.disneylandparis.co.uk/legends-of-the-force

Pirates and Princesses
Until: March 17
Venue: Disneyland Park,
Disneyland Paris
City: Marne-la-Vallée
Country: France
pirates-and-princesses.disneylandparis.co.uk

February

Sokoninaru
The Japanese Riff Explosion tour
8: T-beest, Goes, The Netherlands
9: Hallenbad, Wolfsburg, Germany
10: Kroepoekfabric, Vlaardingen, The Netherlands
12: Underworld, London, UK
14: Keller Club, Stuttgart, Germany
15: Café Central, Weinheim, Germany
16: Japan Impact, Lausanne, Switzerland
17: Paris Manga, Paris, France
19: Arena, Wien, Austria
20: Explosiv, Graz, Austria
21: Grabbenhalle, Sankt Gallen, Czech Republic
22: Palazzo, Chur, Czech Republic
23: Anciens Abbatoirs, Sierre, Czech Republic
24: Japan Tours, Tours, France

GOOD THRU DATE
23: Japan Tours, Tours, France
24: Bobble Café, Lomme, France
highfeel.jp/events

Man with a Mission
Chasing the Horizon tour
27: Academy 3, Manchester, UK
28: ULU, London, UK

March

Fate Gear
European tour
1: Café Central, Weinheim, Germany
3: Mang'animes, Nimes, France
4: La Marquise, Lyon, France
5: Palazzo, Chur, Chzech Republic
8-10: Made in Asia, Laeken, Belgium
12: Explosiv, Graz, Austria
13: Schocken, Stuttgart, Germany
15: Helios 37, Cologne, Germany
16: Issey-les-Mouilineaux-le reacteur, Paris, France

Comic Con Brussels
Date: 2 & 3
Venue: Tour & Taxis
City: Brussels
Country: Belgium
www.comicconbrussels.be

GOOD THRU DATE
8-10: Made in Asia, Laeken, Belgium
highfeel.jp/events

Man with a Mission
Chasing the Horizon tour
3: Das Bett, Frankfurt, Germany
4: Backstage, Munich, Germany
7: Helios 37, Cologne, Germany
8: La Machine, Paris, France
10: Hafenklang, Cologne, Germany
11: Lido, Berlin, Germany

Made in Asia
Date: 8-10
Venue: Brussels Expo
City: Laeken
Country: Belgium
www.madeinasia.be

Cirque du Soleil
Toruk, the First Flight
Date: 14-17
Venue: Sportpaleis
City: Antwerp
Country: Belgium
www.mbpresents.be

The Great Gatsby
Immersive musical theatre
Date: from the 19th
Venue: a secret location downtown
City: Brussels
Country: Belgium
www.mbpresents.be

Monster Jam
Date: 23 & 24
Venue: Sportpaleis
City: Antwerp
Country: Belgium
www.mbpresents.be

April

Mikaru
Solo tour
7: Le Garage, Liège, Belgium
13: Mang'Azur, Toulon, France
14: La Marquise, Lyon, France
highfeel.jp/events

MADMANS ESPRIT
Solo tour
13-14: Mang'Azur, Toulon, France
16: Bobble Café, Lomme, France
18: La Marquise, Lyon, France
21: Pop Centrale, Dordrecht, The Netherlands
24: Marie-Antoinette, Berlin, Germany
25: Chapeau Rouge, Prague, Czech Republic
26: Voodoo Club, Warsaw, Poland
28: Le Garage, Liège, Belgium
highfeel.jp/events

May

Free Comic Book Day
Date: 4
Venue: Comic book stores all around the world
www.freecomicbookday.com

Comic Con Gent
Retro Edition
Date: 4 & 5
Venue: ICC
City: Ghent
Country: Belgium
www.facebook.com/COMICCONGENT

June

Magical Pride
Date: 1
Venue: Walt Disney Studios Park,
Disneyland Paris
City: Marne-la-Vallée
Country: France
www.disneylandparis.com

Star Wars: A New Hope in concert
Date: 8
Venue: Brussels Expo, Palais 12
City: Laeken
Country: Belgium
www.mbpresents.be

the GazettE, world tour
11: Electric Ballroom, London, UK
14: Le Bataclan, Paris, France
16: E werk, Cologne, Germany
19: Backstage Werk, Munich, Germany

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JAPAN CON COSPLAY SNAP

Tour 4 Taxis, Brussels, Belgium. Sunday, November 4 2018.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.

In loving memory of Shota Yokoyama...

Photo by Bert Van den Wyngaert